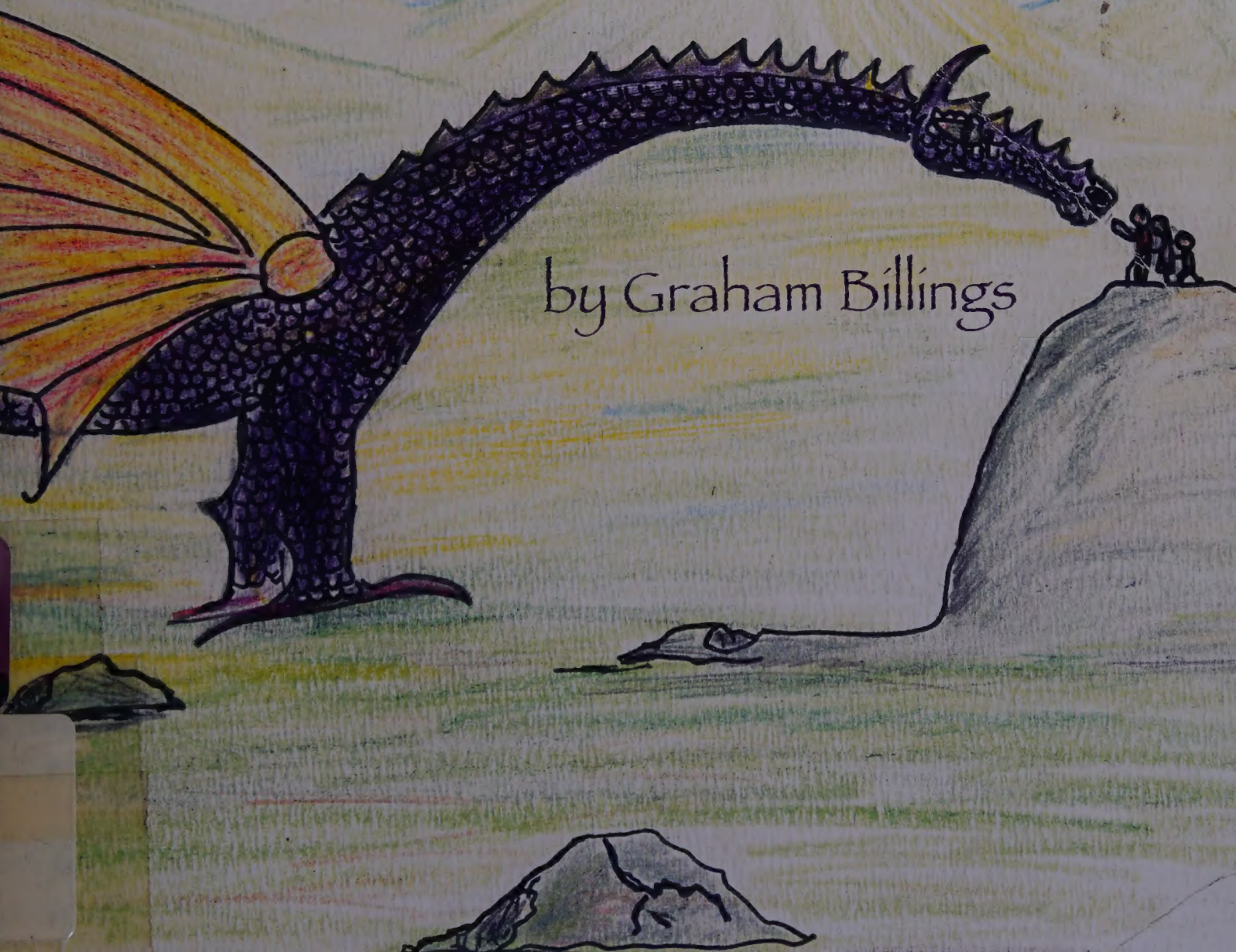
LAST OF THE FAIRIES

Book One: Dragon Helpers



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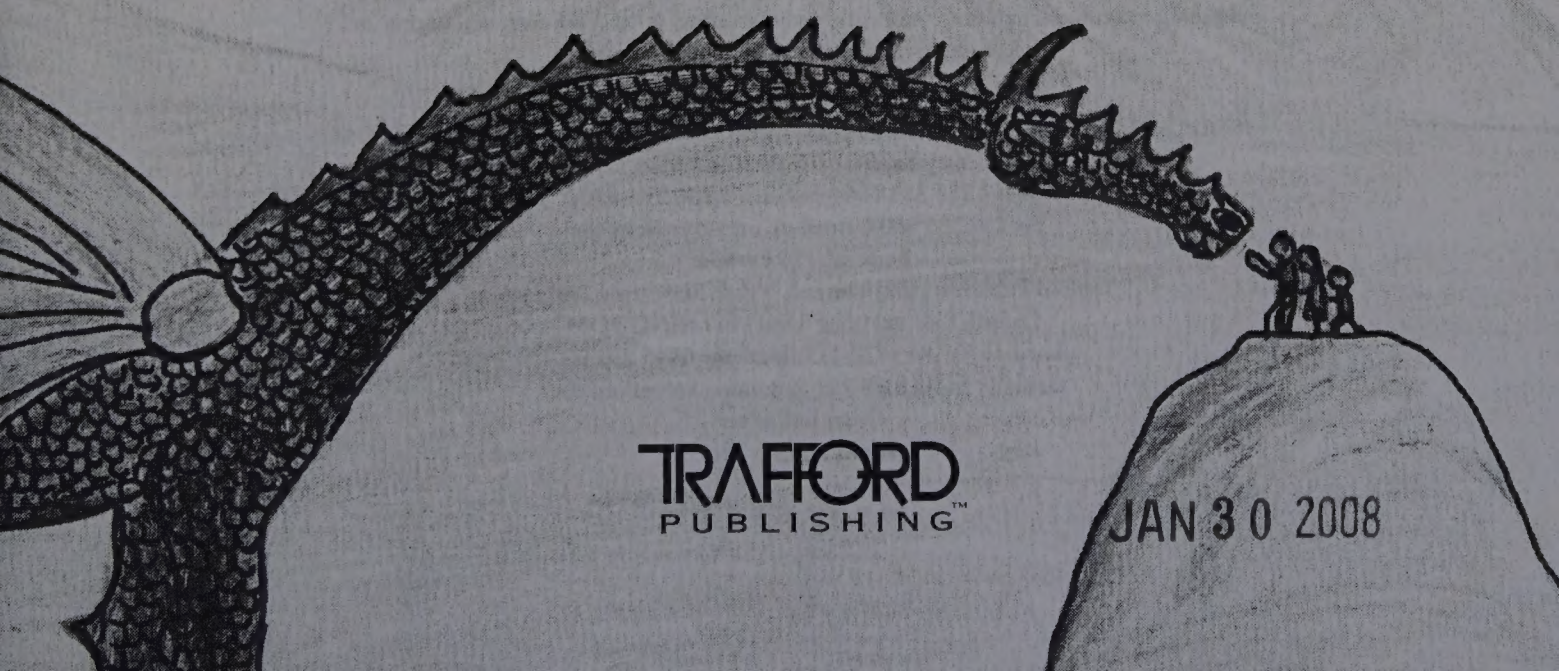
written and illustrated by

Graham Billings

edited and a little bit written by

Marjorie Parker-Billings



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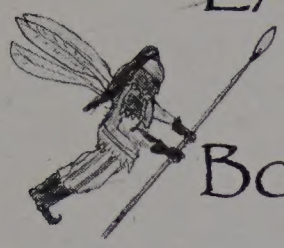


Book One: Dragon Helpers

written and illustrated by
Graham Billings

edited and a little bit written by
Marjorie Parker-Billings

written for and read to
the real-life Will
since
25 December, 2002

inspired by
six naughty little fairies

(be careful not to catch a wing when you close the book)

dedicated to

our children and grandchildren

and dear readers...

so now,

turn the page...

Chapter 1

Meeting the Dragon

"But we're only ten and Will's only five," said Brae in a frightened voice. He had never seen a dragon before. It was so fearsome looking and it was bigger than an elephant. Brae knew dragons ate people in the olden days but wondered if they ate children.

Will whispered from behind Brae, "Don't worry, Brae, I have a stone in my hand - if it tries to eat us, I will throw it at him!"

Just then, Gwynneth peeped around from Brae and burst into tears. "Oh, no, Mr. Dragon, please don't eat us."

The dragon burst out laughing, showing all his teeth, which made him look so more scary. Gwynneth quickly put her head behind Brae's back and shut her eyes very tightly.

"You three would not even make a mouthful. Anyway, I am a vegetarian." The dragon started to laugh again, and then stopped, realizing that his laughter was frightening the children. "Oh, no, children, I would never hurt thee, I would give my life for thee," said the dragon in a very quiet gentle voice. "I have been waiting days for you to come."

Will slowly came out from hiding from behind Gwynneth. He stood at Brae's side and grabbed Brae's hand. Looking up at the dragon timidly, he said, "Hello, my name is Will, what's yours?"

"To you, Master Will, and your brother and sister, just call me Mr. Dragon." For it was a very dangerous thing for the dragon to let anyone know his name, because it was easier to kill a dragon if his name was known. Will continued to smile at Mr. Dragon, but he held Brae's hand tightly and gripped his stone hard in the other hand. Will was disappointed in Mr. Dragon's name. He thought a dragon should be called "Knight-Eater" or "Big Sister-Eater".

"The Wise Ones knew what week you were coming, but not what day you would come." Mr. Dragon gave a long sigh. "I've been waiting for days and I am getting too old to be waiting out in the cold." Then he sighed again. "Only the Creator knows all," added Mr. Dragon in a serious voice.

The children were overwhelmed. What was happening? They had gone to bed hungry and unloved as always and had woken up in this strange land.

"Children, I have been waiting so I can take you to the Forest of Shadows. You must get on my back and sit between my wings. Let me pick you up and put you on this big rock so it will be easier for you to climb on my back."

"OK," said Will. "But promise you will not eat me, Mr. Dragon."

"I promise I will not eat you. A dragon never breaks his promise, for if he did he would fall down dead as soon as the promise was broken. So, can I pick you up?"

"OK," said Will. "You can pick me up," he said with a big smile on his face. The dragon picked up Will, knowing Will was the bravest of the children, and gently put him on the big rock.

"See! He didn't eat me!" called out Will.

Then Mr. Dragon picked up Brae and put him next to Will. Brae's face was as white as a ghost. Then he went to pick up Gwynneth. She was shaking with fear, with her eyes closed tightly. Mr. Dragon picked up Gwynneth very gently and put her next to Brae. Gwynneth rushed behind Brae's back for safety. Brae turned and put his arms around Gwynneth and hugged her tightly to comfort her.

"See, Gwynneth, I told you he would not eat us, so don't be frightened," said Will, putting his arms around Gwynneth too.

A tear came to Mr. Dragon's eye. So much fear in that child, he thought. A lump

came to his throat. He was so moved to see Brae and Will cuddling Gwynneth to comfort her. Tears started to come as he pondered what the children had gone through and what they were about to go through. Then Mr. Dragon brightened and looked at the children.

"That's better, now we can talk face to face. You don't look so frightening now."

Brae and Will laughed.

"Now, where was I? Oh, hmm. Yes, the reason I am here is to take you to safety to what is left of the remaining Fairies of the Light. They are in a far away land of Dragonfly Valley."

"Fairies!" said Brae. What next, he thought.

"Fairies! I've always believed in them. I knew they were true!" Gwynneth clapped her hands with delight.

Yuk. Girly things, thought Will.

As they spoke, all sound just stopped. The sky darkened and the air grew cold. The sound of thundering broke the silence, making everyone jump!

"Sky Scavengers and Doom Riders! Quick, children, jump on my tail and get between my wings. You cannot fall off from between my wings!" Mr. Dragon had fear in his voice. Will jumped onto Mr. Dragon's tail and quickly made his way up the dragon's back to get between his wings. Brae did the same, and looked back to see Gwynneth shaking with fear, unable to move.

"Jump Gwynneth!" yelled Brae.

Will joined in yelling, "Jump, Gwynneth!"

The sound of thundering horses was growing louder and louder. Now there was a terrifying sound of screaming, horns, and barking. "Jump! JUMP GWYNNETH!" yelled out Brae and Will.

"Do something! For they will be upon you soon!" shouted Mr. Dragon over the deafening noise of the Sky Scavengers and Doom Riders.

Brae jumped off Mr. Dragon, grabbed Gwynneth, and with super strength picked her up and threw her on Mr. Dragon's tail. Gwynneth was too shocked

to scream. Brae pushed Gwynneth up to between the wings as fast as he could. Screaming arrows started flying all around them. They would later be told that the arrows were made to scream to frighten.

"We're all between your wings now," shouted Brae.

"Lie down, I am going to take off now," yelled back Mr. Dragon.

The noise of the Sky Scavengers and Doom Riders was deafening, they were just about upon them.

Mr. Dragon started to run with his wings flapping. Whoosh, whoosh went his wings. Very slowly he lifted into the air.

Mr. Dragon flew higher and higher and into the clouds he went. It started to get very cold.

"Mr. Dragon, I am getting cold," called out Will with his teeth chattering.

"So are we," called out Brae.

"Sorry children, I have to fly high into the clouds so we cannot be followed by the Sky Scavengers. If they find us, they will attack us." Mr. Dragon's voice sounded like he was in pain and trying to hide it. "Close your eyes and think you are in a nice warm bed and sleep will come quick, for we have a long journey ahead of us."

In a most beautiful soothing voice, Mr. Dragon began to sing a song from the dawn of time in a language that had long been forgotten. Soon the children felt a warming feeling all over their bodies. They fell into a deep, relaxing sleep.

The children began to dream the same dream that Mummy was talking to them. Mummy had the most beautiful voice they had ever heard. Mummy told them not to worry, that one day all would be revealed to them, but the time was not now. They would all be together again as a family. To trust Mr. Dragon and Lord Tava and do everything those two asked them to do. And trust anyone who was wearing the Golden Scallop on their left sleeve.

Then Mummy addressed each of them:

"Brae, you are going to be a great leader. You must learn trust."

"Gwynneth, you are going to be a great healer. Do not be afraid anymore."

"Will, my baby, who has only seen life for a short time, you are going to be a mighty warrior. But you must learn to listen and to do what you are told."

Then in their dreams, their Mummy spoke separately to each of them.

The children all woke up at the same time, wondering where they were for a few seconds. Will sat up and looked around. "Brae, Gwynneth! There are mountains with snow on them all around us."

Brae and Gwynneth sat up.

"You're awake, children. We're just about here. My home. We'll rest here." Mr. Dragon was gliding between the mountain tops. "If you look straight ahead you can see my home."

Chapter 2

In the Dragons' Cave

They all looked straight ahead to see a cave. As they drew closer to the cave, Mr. Dragon said, "Keep a sharp look out for anything, children; we could have been followed. I am going to circle around the mountaintop." Mr. Dragon circled around the mountaintop, then, BUMP, BUMP; he landed on a ledge outside the cave.

"Slide down my tail, children; it's quicker that way." Mr. Dragon twisted his tail over so the children could slide down the smooth underside.

"I am first!" said Will, pushing his way past Gwynneth and Brae.

"Wee! This looks like fun!" Will started to slide down the tail.

"Me next," said Gwynneth.

"Wee! It is fun, Brae!" said Gwynneth, as she stood at the bottom of the tail. Then Gwynneth ran over to Mr. Dragon's head. "Oh, thank you, Mr. Dragon, for saving us. Mummy told me never to be afraid of you. So I am not." Then Gwynneth gave Mr. Dragon's leg a big hug. "I love you Mr. Dragon."

Just then, a little dragon no bigger than a cat flew out of the cave saying, "All praise to the Creator that you all arrived safely." Then the little dragon flew straight toward Will. Without thinking, Will opened his arms and the little dragon landed in his arms.

"Hello, my name is Will, what's yours?"

"That would be a secret, Master Will, just call me Dragon Little."

"Why is your name a secret?" asked Will.

"All dragons' names are secret, did you not know that?"

"No," admitted Will.

"Well, you do know now," said Dragon Little.

"Can you be my friend, I've never had a friend before," asked Will in a hopeful voice, and he cuddled Dragon Little just a little.

"I'd be honored to, Master Will. We'll be friends for life."

Will's face lit up with delight.

"You will!" Then Will gave Dragon Little a bigger loving hug.

Gwynneth smiled, looking up at Mr. Dragon. It had been a long time since a smile came to Gwynneth. "Thank you again," smiled Gwynneth, squeezing Mr. Dragon's leg.

"You're welcome, Gwynneth. Now go in the cave and say hello to Mrs. Dragon."

"OK," said Gwynneth and she started walking to the cave. "Coming, Will?"

"OK" said Will, with a big smile on his face as he gave Dragon Little another hug and a tussle to his fur.

Brae was still standing at the very edge of the ledge, looking down. He had a spiritual feeling standing at the top of the world. He was unable to see the bottom of the mountain. He looked up, and then looked all around. The air smelled of freshness. The sky was so blue. The pure white snow on the mountain was so bright. Brae wished he had dark glasses on. He always wanted dark glasses of his own. Brae slowly turned around and spoke in a quiet voice, "It's very peaceful and safe here, Mr. Dragon."

"Yes, Master Brae. It is. All praise to the Creator, and let's pray it stays this way." Mr. Dragon thought to himself, 'That boy has a lot of courage. He stood so close to the edge. One day he'll make a great leader like his father was.'

"You're very tired, aren't you, Mr. Dragon?" asked Brae.

"Yes, Master Brae, I've been flying one day and night and then half a day. Yes, I am very tired."

"Why did you have to travel so far to get us?" asked Brae.

"It was the place where Lord Tava told me where to meet you and no one argues with Lord Tava," said Mr. Dragon with a long sigh.

"Who's Lord Tava?" asked Brae.

"Now, that's an interesting question. Where would one start?" Mr. Dragon had a quick think, and grinned, "Let's say the big boss who must be obeyed."

"Even you have to obey him, Mr. Dragon?"

"He would like to think so, but he's my friend. Let's get inside, it's getting cold soon." Mr. Dragon was in no mood to talk about Lord Tava anymore. The pain in his leg was getting great.

Will and Gwynneth were surprised to find it was daylight in the cave. A nice smell of cooking food came from one corner, which drew the children's attention. There were cooking pots hanging over a nice big warm fire. The children looked twice. There was a tiny old lady with wings stirring one of the pots. She hovered over the pot holding a spoon bigger than she was.

"She's a fairy!" breathed Gwynneth excitedly to Will. Just then, a big door opened and a dragon just a bit smaller than Mr. Dragon walked through.

"All praise to the Creator. You have arrived safely. Welcome to our home. I am Mrs. Dragon."

"And we are Will and Gwynneth. It's nice to meet you. And I am hungry," said Will.

"That's rude to say you're hungry!" scolded Gwynneth.

"But it's true," said Will.

No one had noticed that the old fairy had curtsied to them.

Mrs. Dragon laughed, "Off you go to wash up, and Fairy Stir Pot will feed you when you come back nice and clean. Dragon Little will show you where to go and wash. No flying! Remember what happened the last time and I am still very

cross at you." Mrs. Dragon looked at Dragon Little sternly.

"Put me on the floor, Master Will, and follow me," said Dragon Little.

When they got through the door, Dragon Little confessed, "She's still mad at me for breaking her mirror. It's not my fault. She just put it in the wrong place."

Brae noticed that Mr. Dragon was limping very badly on the back right leg. "What happened to your leg, Mr. Dragon?" asked Brae with concern in his voice.

"One of those Doom Riders hit me in the leg. Don't worry, Mrs. Dragon will fix it. She always fixes me up." Mr. Dragon gave a laugh.

No arrow could hurt a dragon for its scales were like iron. But one of the Doom Riders must have been carrying arrows with the points made out of zokee, the rarest metal in the whole world. It was so rare that only the best archers could carry a zokee arrow. So far, four dragons of the Order of the White Light had been killed by zokee poison arrows.

'All praise to the Creator. I got the children home to safety,' thought Mr. Dragon. Luckily for the children, the effects of the poison would take hours to start working. 'How did they know I would be there?' thought Mr. Dragon.

Brae and Mr. Dragon entered the cave.

"All praise to the Creator. You came home safely, husband. And welcome, Master Brae." Mrs. Dragon was looking at Mr. Dragon's leg with a worried look on her face.

"You arrived. All praise to the Creator," said Fairy Stir Pot, curtseying.

Brae looked at her. So fairies are true. And why was she doing that? Just then, hails of laughter rang out from one of the doors.

"Follow that noise, Master Brae, and wash, and then you can eat," said Mrs. Dragon. Brae's tummy started rumbling and the thought of food made him feel very hungry.

"Thank you," said Brae and he headed for the door where the laughter was coming from.

When Brae left the cave, Mrs. Dragon asked, "Husband, your leg, what

happened? Are you alright?"

"A Doom Rider's arrow hit me. It was poison."

"Arrows cannot hurt a dragon. I see no arrow in your leg," said Mrs. Dragon, looking hard at Mr. Dragon's leg.

"I broke the shaft so the children wouldn't see it. But the arrow head is deep in my leg and the poison is at work."

"Oh no, my dear husband, you must not die, for I would be lost without you! We've been wed five hundred years!" Mrs. Dragon started to cry.

"Hush, my dear wife. Do not let the children or Dragon Little hear you crying," said Mr. Dragon in a comforting voice.

"Can I do anything, dear husband?"

"Alas, no, dear wife, you must let the other dragons know what happened to me and you must get one of them to take the children to the Forest of the Shadows. For my dear Lord Tava is waiting for them to arrive. It is very dangerous for you and Fairy Stir Pot and the children if they stay here too long. They will not give up looking for them." Mr. Dragon's voice was growing weaker now. "The only safe place for the children is Dragonfly valley," said Mr. Dragon.

Fairy Stir Pot had been listening. "My dearest friends. The girl child Gwynneth is a healer like her mother. I know these things. I'll go get her mother's healing bag."

"No," said Mr. Dragon. "The children must eat first. Then you can get the healing bag." No one dared disobey Mr. Dragon.

The children and Dragon Little came into the main cave full of life and walked over to the table.

"Sit children," said Mr. Dragon.

The children sat down. Brae asked Mr. and Mrs. Dragon, "Are you not eating with us?

"No, we will eat after you have eaten. For a good host always lets his guest eat first," said Mrs. Dragon, beckoning for Dragon Little to come over to her.

"Why?" asked Will.

"For it is the law of hospitality, Master Will," explained Mrs. Dragon. Will did not understand what she meant. He had never seen so much food on a table before and he started to eat. Brae and Gwynneth started eating. They were all eating as fast as they could.

"Stop at once!" said Mr. Dragon. "You have not given thanks for your food."

"Sorry," said the children, sheepishly. "Thank you Mrs. Fairy. It's nice." Then they started eating again.

"Yes, it's good you thanked Fairy Stir Pot, but it's the Creator you give thanks to," said Mr. Dragon.

The children looked at one another. "How do we give thanks?" asked Brae. Will started to eat, making a loud noise. Gwynneth gave him a kick under the table to make him stop.

"That hurt!" said Will, kicking Gwynneth back. Gwynneth gave Will another kick again. Will spat the food in his mouth at Gwynneth.

"You pig!" yelled Gwynneth at Will.

"Stop that at once!" roared Mr. Dragon. Will and Gwynneth looked at Mr. Dragon in shock.

"Never, never, waste food. Be grateful to the Creator you have food to eat!" said Mr. Dragon. The children knew what Mr. Dragon was talking about. It had been many a time the children had gone to bed hungry. "Now Brae, to answer your question all you have to say is, 'We give our thanks to the Creator that we have food to eat.' Always remember to thank the Creator for everything," said Mr. Dragon in a quiet voice.

The children gave thanks to the Creator for their food and Will piped up, "It's really nice too!" Everyone laughed.

The children ate and ate like they had never eaten before, and drank and drank, until there was no food left or drink.

"Do you want anymore?" asked Fairy Stir Pot.

All together the children said in a loud voice, "NO THANK YOU!"

"But you have eaten and drank everything, you must want more. There's lot's more to eat," encouraged Fairy Stir Pot.

Will started to cry. "My tummy hurts. It's going to pop."

Gwynneth started crying too. "I cannot eat anymore. I feel sick."

"Na, you do not have to eat anymore," said Fairy Stir Pot with a look of surprise on her face.

"But we thought we had to eat and drink what's on the table," said Brae.

"Why did you think that?" asked Mr. Dragon in a concerned voice.

"We've always been told we were lucky to get any food and be grateful for what's on the table and to eat it all."

"No, you only eat what you want," explained Mrs. Dragon. "Oh, you poor children." A tear came to her eye.

Fairy Stir Pot said something under her breath.

"Go and sleep off what you have eaten. Dragon Little will show you where to sleep," said Mr. Dragon.

Chapter 3

Gwynneth's Crystal

Gwynneth was sound asleep when she heard a voice. It was Mummy's voice.

"Mr. Dragon is dying. Go heal Mr. Dragon, my daughter."

Gwynneth woke up and got out of bed and went to the main cave. The only light was from the fire making dancing patterns on the walls.

"Mr. Dragon is dying and Mummy told me to heal him," Gwynneth announced. Mr. Dragon was lying in front of the fire, breathing heavily. Mrs. Dragon and Dragon Little were sitting next to him. Mrs. Dragon was crying softly. They all looked up in surprise. Just then, Fairy Stir Pot flew into the cave.

"The princess, she can heal Mr. Dragon. She has the gift like her mother. The Queen, my dear friend, came to me in a dream. I'll go get the princess her mother's bag. All praise to the Creator, I managed to take the bag with me." With a blink of an eye, Fairy Stir Pot was gone.

As Gwynneth walked over to where Mr. Dragon was lying, she thought, 'She called Mummy, Queen; and me, Princess.' Mrs. Dragon stood up. Gwynneth's eyes filled with tears as she stood next to Mr. Dragon. " Don't die, Mr. Dragon. I am here to save you."

Now tears were rolling down Gwynneth's face and splashing onto Mr. Dragon. No one spoke. They just let Gwynneth cry with them. Fairy Stir Pot had returned,

but she stayed back, watching Gwynneth cry.

"Nay, Lass. I am not dying. Your mother told me you would heal me," said Mr. Dragon as he stood up. Fairy Stir Pot flew over and handed Gwynneth her mother's healing bag.

"Thank you," said Gwynneth, looking at the bag. It was a small bag, made of black leather, with golden writing all over it. Gwynneth did not know what the writing said. She had never seen writing like this before. When Gwynneth opened the bag, a very bright blue-white light shone out from the bag, lighting the entire cave. The brightness of the white light did not hurt Gwynneth's eyes. A nice, warm, peaceful feeling came from the light. Gwynneth put her hand into the bag. Her fingers started to tingle as she felt a very fine chain. It felt like the chain was wrapping itself around her hand. Quickly she pulled her hand from the bag, and coiled around her hand was a very fine chain. It was made of silver and gold with a clear crystal dangling from it.

"What is this?" asked Gwynneth, holding the chain with the crystal above her head.

"It is the Healing Crystal. It came from the stars and is as old as time," answered Fairy Stir Pot.

Fairy Stir Pot reflected on her past as the Queen's lady-in-waiting. Fairy Stir Pot had been brought up with the Queen, and was also her close friend. The Queen's healing crystal and her children had been entrusted to Fairy Stir Pot.

"Now put the crystal around your neck and go and heal," directed Fairy Stir Pot in a firm voice.

"But I don't know how to," sniffed Gwynneth, as she put the crystal around her neck.

"Yes you do. Go stand by Mr. Dragon's leg and close your eyes and visualize what you should do," Fairy Stir Pot gently said.

Gwynneth went to Mr. Dragon and looked up at his face. It was full of pain. Mr. Dragon gave Gwynneth a weak smile.

"I have faith in you, Lass."

Gwynneth closed her eyes and held her hand over the wound. At first the

beautiful blue-white light came. Then she could see the arrow head and the blacky green poison spreading through Mr. Dragon's body. Gwynneth focused on the arrow head and drawing it out. Slowly in her mind she could see it start to move and come out of Mr. Dragon's leg.

Clang. The arrow head fell to the floor.

Next, Gwynneth focused on the poison. It started to ooze and drip from the wound. Gwynneth stepped back from the puddle. There was a horrible stench to it. Everyone's nose wrinkled in disgust.

But no one moved. They were fascinated watching Gwynneth, who looked like a radiant angel with bright light all over her.

As the last of the poison trickled out of Mr. Dragon's body, Gwynneth moaned, and fainted to the floor.

Chapter 4

The Next Day

The morning air was very chilly as the sun peeped over the mountain tops at Mr. Dragon's cave. Gwynneth walked out of the cave with Will. She remembered very little of what had happened the night before. To her it just seemed like another dream.

"Look, Gwynneth! Mr. Dragon has a box on his back and got spears in it!" yelled Will in excitement.

"Yes, Will. It's like a box they put on elephants to carry people in it. Remember we saw an elephant with a box on its back in the movies," answered Gwynneth.

"Yes, I remember," said Will. He ran over to Mr. Dragon and Brae. "You got spears in that box thing on your back! Why?"

"Good morning Master Will. Yes, I have weapons in the box," answered Mr. Dragon in a sad voice.

"Can I have a spear?" asked Will, with anticipation.

"Yes, Will, but pray to the Creator you do not have to use it."

"Why?"

"Dragon Little will tell you later," said Mr. Dragon.

Just then, Dragon Little's head appeared over the top of the box strapped to Mr. Dragon's back.

"Good morning Master Will. Did you have a good sleep?" asked Dragon Little.

"Yes, I did. Can I come up with you?" asked Will hopefully.

"Yes, you can, Master Will," answered Dragon Little.

"But how am I going to get up?" Mr. Dragon's tail was curled up and the sides of the box were high.

"Ask my Dad nicely, and he might pick you up by his teeth," suggested Dragon Little.

Will had to think about that for a little bit. Will looked up at Mr. Dragon and asked hopefully, "Please can you pick me up and put me in the box with Dragon Little?"

"Yes, I can do that for you Master Will." Mr. Dragon lowered his head near Will.

"Grab one of my big curved teeth in the front and I'll lift you up."

"Thank you." Will put his hands around Mr. Dragon's front tooth and Mr. Dragon lifted Will up and dropped him in the box.

"Thank you," said Will again, as he looked around in the box. There were spears and shields and crossbows. Dragon Little was sitting on a small box.

"Do you like my box, Master Will?"

Will looked at the box and shrugged his shoulders. To him it was just a box with holes. But he liked the dragon painted on the lid. "I like the dragon on your box. Can I have one like yours but with no holes?"

Dragon Little smiled. He loved his box very much.

"I wish you could have a box like mine," he proudly said. "But this is the only box like this in the whole wide world, for it was made for me because I am the only little dragon in the whole wide world. I was born little and will never grow big." Then Dragon Little got into the box and shut the lid.

Mrs. Dragon and Fairy Stir Pot came out to wave everyone goodbye.

Mr. Dragon started to flap his wings.

"Goodbye for now, and may the Creator always go with you!"

Mrs. Dragon gave a sniff and Fairy Stir Pot gave a curtsy, turned, and flew into the cave crying.

The children were waving back and called out, "Thank you! Thank you for everything!" They felt a little sad and at the same time excited for what was to come.

"Sit down, children. I am about to take off." Then Mr. Dragon gave Mrs. Dragon a smile, "May the Creator watch over you."

"May the Creator watch over you, dear husband."

Mr. Dragon flapped his wings harder. Whoosh, whoosh, they went, as they lifted into the air. Higher and higher they climbed into the air. The children felt sleepy. Soon they were all asleep.

Chapter 5

Sky Scavenger Attack

Mr. Dragon was flying as fast as he could, skimming over the tree tops. Will and Brae aimed their crossbows as the Sky Scavengers got ready for another attack. Gwynneth was holding a spear and madly waving it. She was calling out to the Sky Scavengers words what a little girl should not know.

"Here they come again! Fire!" yelled Gwynneth. Ping went the crossbow. Whoosh went the arrows through the air. Then screams rang out as two Sky Scavengers were hit by arrows, sending them plummeting to the ground. Ping, whoosh, went more arrows. Two more Sky Scavengers gave a scream and fell to the ground. The other Sky Scavengers broke from the attack for they were cowards at heart.

Gwynneth yelled as loudly as she could with triumph in her voice, "Hooray! They're flying away! Good shooting, brothers!" Then, on top of her voice, Gwynneth yelled, "You don't muck around with us!" and added a few naughty words. Brae and Will did not cheer for they were too busy firing at the fleeing Sky Scavengers until they were out of sight.

After some time, Dragon Little's box flipped open and out popped his head from his hiding place. "Have they gone?" For the Sky Scavengers must never know he was with the children if he was to help them.

"Yes, it looks like they're gone. These crossbows are great. They never run out of arrows. As soon as we shoot one arrow, another arrow is ready to be fired," said Brae with appreciation.

"Why are they like that? Are they magic?" asked Will.

"No, there's no such thing as magic. It's just the way it is, that's all." Then as an afterthought, Dragon Little added, "They say magic was a thought of men who do not understand the way of things."

Mr. Dragon called out, "Good shooting! We are going to land very soon, so sit down." The children sat down and Dragon Little's head disappeared back into his box with the lid shutting. Mr. Dragon stopped flapping his wings and he started to glide into a clearing between the trees. Unknown to everyone, the Sky Scavengers had not fled. They had just flown into the cover of the clouds. So, unseen, they could follow until the right opportunity to attack came again. Mr. Dragon landed in the clearing.

Sky Scavengers came swooping down out of the clouds, screaming their devilish cries. For they knew victory was theirs, because a dragon was almost helpless on the ground and many more Sky Scavengers had joined them.

The children looked up in horror to see now a swarm of Sky Scavengers swooping down upon them. Quickly they grabbed their crossbows and stood up. Mr. Dragon started to run, which made them fall down in the box.

"I'll run to the edge of the trees. You must jump off me and run as fast as you can into the forest," yelled Mr. Dragon in fear for the children.

Then, a company of archers stepped out of the forest into the clearing, and aimed their bows skywards. A blast from a trumpet sounded. Whoosh went the arrows, darkening the sky. Screams of pain came from the Sky Scavengers as the arrows struck home and thumps as their bodies fell to the ground. Not one Sky Scavenger survived.

Mr. Dragon had stopped running but he was panting too heavily to speak. The children picked themselves up from the floor when the box stopped swaying.

"Look, Brae, they're fairies. Look how many of them," whispered Gwynneth, grabbing Brae's hand.

Will whispered back, "They must be the good ones. They shot those birdie things."

All the fairy archers were dressed in dark green. Brae thought they looked like Robin Hood's men, but with wings.

The lid of Dragon Little's box opened and out popped Dragon Little, saying, "All praise to the Creator. We got here safely, and no one's been hurt."

Will picked up Dragon Little out of his box and gave him a big hug.

"Look!" exclaimed Gwynneth.

All the archers had dropped to one knee and bowed their heads.

"Why are they doing that?" asked Brae.

Mr. Dragon was still panting heavily because he had never run so fast in his life. "You tell them, Dragon Little. I am still out of breath," panted Mr. Dragon.

"Put me on the box, Master Will." Will put Dragon Little on top of his box.

"Thank you, Master Will. Now you can all hear me. The fairies are bowing to you because you are Fairy Royal."

Gwynneth giggled.

"What's Fairy Royal?" Will wondered.

"It means you and Brae are princes and Gwynneth is a princess," smiled Dragon Little.

"Prince of what?" asked Will.

"You're a prince of the fairies," smiled Dragon Little again.

"But fairies have wings and we haven't got any." Will then had a quick think.

"If I am a prince, I can have a real sword and a horse and go to bed when I like it?" asked Will excitedly.

"Slow down, Master Will. I'll answer your questions later. But now I have to ask Master Brae to tell the archers to rise." Dragon Little was trying not to laugh.

"Me, a prince, you must be joking." Brae's face went red. "I can't."

"You must tell them to rise or they'll stay kneeling," said Dragon Little firmly.

A naughty thought flashed through Will's head. Wouldn't it be fun to tell them to rise and kneel all day long? But would their legs fall off? Then Will whispered into Brae's ear,

"I dare you to tell them to stand on their heads."

"I heard what you're saying, Master Will." Dragon Little was doing his best not to laugh. "Now, Master Brae, tell them to rise."

In a very quiet voice, because Brae was embarrassed, he said, "Rise."

"Your face has gone red, Brae." Will started to laugh.

Gwynneth gave Will a kick. "Shut up, Will."

"That hurt!" cried out Will.

"When I get a sword, I am going to cut your head off," glared Will at Gwynneth.

Gwynneth gave Will another kick and said, "I am bigger than you."

Will cried out in pain.

"That hurt!" and Will kicked Gwynneth.

"You little....." and Gwynneth kicked Will back.

Will kicked Gwynneth again.

"Stop it you two, at once!" snapped Dragon Little and Mr. Dragon growled.

"But..."

Before Will could say any more, Dragon Little said angrily, "Quiet. That's enough. Act like a prince and princess should."

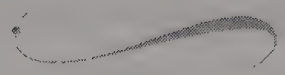
Gwynneth and Will looked at their feet saying all kinds of things under their breath what they would like to do to one another.

"Tell them to rise, Master Brae. They're needed in battle," commanded Mr. Dragon. Will's ears pricked up.

"RISE," said Brae in a loud, but nervous voice.

Chapter 6

Lord Tava



The fairy archers stood up and started to sing the old fairy anthem. Then they bowed and vanished back into the forest, leaving a little old man standing there. He had on the funniest looking hat the children had ever seen. He had long white hair and a beard that just about touched the ground.

"Who's that?" asked Brae.

"Lord Tava. Lord Protector of the Fairies and Mr. Dragon is his best friend." Dragon Little gave the children a wink.

"All praise to the Creator, my dearest friend. You got them here safely," Lord Tava said in a very strong voice, which surprised the children.

"All praise to the Creator, my dear old friend." Mr. Dragon was not puffing so much now.

"Come, children, get down so I can look at you....Oh, silly me, I forgot you don't have wings." Lord Tava then called loudly, "Guards! Get them."

Three fairies flew out of the trees and came and picked up the children, putting them in front of Lord Tava, and then stood behind him.

"Welcome, your majesties, welcome. All praise to the Creator you are safe." Then Lord Tava bowed to them with a big smile on his face.

Gwynneth looked at him and thought he must be the oldest man in the world.

She thought, 'He must be a man. He has not wings like us. But he's old.'

"Thank you," said the children all together. Lord Tava smiled, wiping a tear from his eyes.

"You're alive, you're alive. All praise to the Creator. We thought we had lost you."

The children looked at one another as if to say, 'What is he talking about?'

"We have to go soon, so say your goodbyes to Mr. Dragon," said Lord Tava in a hurried voice.

"May I go and have a look around, Lord Tava?" asked Dragon Little, looking up at Lord Tava from Will's feet.

"Hello, my little friend, I didn't see you down there. Yes, it is a good idea," answered Lord Tava.

"Thank you," replied Dragon Little, and then to Will, he said, "If you call me in your mind, I will come. Good bye." And Dragon Little flew into the forest.

"Is Dragon Little going too?" Will looked sad.

'No, Master Will. I am staying to look after you,' answered Dragon Little in a cheerful voice in Will's mind.

"Goody!" Will was so happy.

"Say your farewells to Mr. Dragon. We have to leave soon. Guards, take that box off Mr. Dragon's back."

Everyone started to walk over to Mr. Dragon. Gwynneth ran ahead and gave Mr. Dragon's leg a hug and started to sob, "I love you Mr. Dragon. Don't go. Stay with us."

Mr. Dragon lowered his head. Gwynneth let Mr. Dragon's leg go and hugged his neck. "Don't cry little princess. I'll see you again. When you need me I'll be there for you."

"Promise?" Gwynneth's face lit up and she stopped sobbing.

"Yes, my little princess, and you know a dragon never breaks his promise. Gwynneth wiped the tears from her eyes with her sleeve and softly said, "I love

you Mr. Dragon."

"And I love you, little princess."

Lord Tava had stood back with Will and Brae to let Gwynneth talk with Mr. Dragon a little more, for Mr. Dragon had something secret to tell Gwynneth.

"You're tired, my dear friend," said Lord Tava, patting Mr. Dragon's leg with affection.

Mr. Dragon laughed, "Age is catching up with me."

Lord Tava laughed too, "It is catching up on both of us, dear friend." Then Lord Tava gave a long sigh, "Now Will and Brae, say your goodbyes for we must go very soon."

Will and Brae did not know what to say. All they could say was goodbye, for they were upset to see Mr. Dragon leave.

"You'll be all right, dear friend?" asked Lord Tava of Mr. Dragon.

"Yes, I'll rest in a safe spot until evening and then go the rest of the way. It's better that way," answered Mr. Dragon.

"Good idea, dear friend."

The box fell off Mr. Dragon, making the children jump.

"That's better," said Mr. Dragon, shaking his whole body.

"We must go now. Time is not with us."

"May the Creator watch over you, dear friend." Lord Tava gave Mr. Dragon another pat.

"May the Creator watch over all of you," answered Mr. Dragon with concern in his voice.

"Come, Brae, Will, and Gwynneth. We must get going now. Darkness comes early in the forest." Brae wondered how Lord Tava knew their names.

"Goodbye Mr. Dragon!" called out the children as they walked towards the forest. For an old man, Lord Tava could walk very fast. Once they got into the forest they kept walking at a very fast pace. Gwynneth heard Mr. Dragon's voice

in her mind, 'Goodbye, Mistress Gwynneth. Don't forget what I told you.'

'I won't,' sent Gwynneth back to Mr. Dragon in her mind.

Chapter 7

Forest of Shadows

They were joined by some royal guards who just appeared out of the shadows. The forest was gloomy and cold. Not a sound could be heard. Brae looked up and could not see the sky. The children had a feeling they were being watched.

"Lord Tava, my legs are going to fall off and I am hungry!" called out Will, panting heavily. Lord Tava put his hand up to give the stop sign and then his fingers to his lips and walked over to the children and whispered, "Be very quiet. I should have told you never make a loud noise, for noise travels afar in this forest and there is evil afoot here."

Gwynneth was about to ask something but Lord Tava put his fingers to his lips. Gwynneth nodded. Lord Tava signaled to one of the guards to pick up Will. Will smiled as the guards picked him up to be carried. His legs were so tired.

Lord Tava looked at Brae and Gwynneth and asked them quietly, "Do you want to be carried?" Brae and Gwynneth shook their heads to say no.

They moved off, but at a slower pace. They had been walking for some time when they heard CRASH, CRASH. The sound grew louder. Just then, Dragon Little appeared out of nowhere and flew straight to Lord Tava and whispered in his ear, "Dinosaur men are coming."

"How far away?" whispered Lord Tava.

"They'll be here soon," whispered back Dragon Little. More fairy guards

appeared out of nowhere with their weapons at ready. The crashing sound was growing closer.

Lord Tava desperately looked around to see if he could find anywhere for them to hide. Not too far away he saw a big pile of rocks on top of one another with large gaps where the children could climb into and hide.

"Quick! Run to those rocks and crawl between the gaps so you can't be seen. We'll be safe there!" yelled out Lord Tava over the crashing noise. Lord Tava and the children ran as fast as they could and scrambled into the rocks. The royal guard, for that is what they were, did not run. They stood their ground with bows ready, waiting for the dinosaur men to appear.

There was the sound of breaking branches. The ground shook as the dinosaur men appeared. They were riding very large dinosaurs covered in armor.

"Shoot!" yelled the captain of the royal guards. Whoosh went the volley of arrows through the trees. High pitched screams rang out as some of the arrows hit the dinosaur men, sending them to the ground with a thump, bang, and clang.

"Shoot!" yelled the captain of the royal guards again. Another volley of arrows sent more dinosaur men clanging to the ground.

"Break!" yelled the captain of the royal guards. The royal guards turned and fled with the dinosaur men chasing after them. The children lay in the dark between the rocks, too frightened to move. There was only room for one of them in each gap. They laid there quietly for a long time.

They heard a voice calling them softly, "Brae. Will. Gwynneth. It's safe to come out now."

But the children did not answer.

"It's Lord Tava. Come out. It's safe," soothed Lord Tava.

Will crawled to the end of his crevice and peeped out of the rocks. "It's OK Brae and Gwynneth. It IS Lord Tava," Will quietly whispered, because he did not want to make a loud noise again. 'Look what happened last time,' thought Will.

Brae and Gwynneth crawled out between the rocks. They brushed off the dust and spiders. Will was already standing next to Lord Tava.

"You can talk, just quietly. Somehow they know you are in the forest. Mmmm. Strange." Lord Tava pondered for a minute.

"We are not going to be able to make it to where we are going tonight for darkness is coming fast. It's too dangerous to be on the ground at night. For the creatures come out at night and do their hunting."

Chapter 8

Lord Tava's Cloak

Lord Tava closed his eyes for a few seconds and four royal body guards appeared out of nowhere. Unknown to the children, each one of them had a personal body guard to watch over them in times of danger. Even Lord Tava needed a body guard, for he was not as young as he liked to think he was. He was starting to feel the cold now.

Will looked around frantically. "Where's Dragon Little? Is he alright?"

Lord Tava put his hand on Will's shoulder. "He is safe, Prince William. He has gone to scout ahead to see if it is safe for us to enter Dragonfly Valley. We do not want our enemies to know how to get into Dragonfly Valley. You'll see him some time tomorrow, so don't worry."

It was the first time Lord Tava had called Will 'Prince William' and Will hated to be called William.

"I don't like that name. My name is Will and always will be," snapped Will.

"Sorry, Prince Will," smiled Lord Tava. And then Lord Tava thought about what to do next.

"Now to the tree tops," said Lord Tava.

Gwynneth looked up. She could not see the top of the trees. She whispered to Brae, "How are we going to get to the top?"

"Climb, of course." Brae loved climbing trees.

"No, you would be climbing forever, Brae. We'll fly up there," grinned Lord Tava.

"How then?" Brae asked.

"The Royal Guards will carry you up there."

"They won't drop us?" asked Gwynneth, alarmed.

"They better not," laughed Lord Tava.

A very good looking royal guard stepped forward and asked Gwynneth, "May I carry you to the top of the tree, my Princess?"

Gwynneth giggled nervously, "Yes you may carry me. You won't drop me?"

"No, my Princess," reassured the guard.

"Do not make a sound, children, as we travel to the top of trees. Remember sound travels a long way." Lord Tava put his fingers to his lips, then whispered, "Be very quiet and keep your arms around the royal guards' necks."

The guards lifted the children into their arms and started to fly upwards. The children were amazed to see Lord Tava rising straight into the air as if he were standing in an invisible elevator.

Up and up they went. Will wondered if they were going to the moon. It seemed forever they were flying up. At last they reached the top. It looked like they were landing in a very, very big birds' nest which looked over all the other trees.

Will's tummy rumbled loudly.

"Hungry, Prince Will?" asked Lord Tava.

"Just a little bit. It doesn't matter." For Will was very used to being hungry. Then his tummy started to rumble again.

"Your tummy is saying its hungry. So we shall eat. I am hungry too," said Lord Tava. Then Lord Tava put his hand into his cloak and pulled out a big table cloth.

"Could you please spread it out, Princess?" Lord Tava smiled to see the look

of disbelief on Gwynneth's face. Brae went to help her.

Then Lord Tava pulled out eight plates and put the stack on the table cloth.

"Set the plates out, Prince Will." Lord Tava was smiling at the look on the children's faces. Then he put his hand into his cloak again. Brae's mouth dropped open to see everything the children would like to eat was coming out of Lord Tava's cloak and being set on the table cloth.

"Do you think you have enough for now, Prince Brae?" Lord Tava did not have clue how much children ate.

Brae shut his mouth and answered, "Yes." 'How did he keep so much food in his cloak,' Brae wondered.

"Oh, silly me. I forgot to give us something to drink. Cold milk would be nice." Then Lord Tava put his hand back into his cloak and pulled out a big pitcher of cold milk and put it on the table cloth. He put his hand back into the cloak and got two glasses, then two more, and two more, and two more. "Could you please put a glass next to each plate, Will?" asked Lord Tava. "Princess Gwynneth, give Will a hand."

"Do you realize, Will, we are having our third good meal in two days?" Gwynneth's mouth was watering.

"You'll get fat," laughed Will.

"I don't care," snapped Gwynneth, looking at all the yummy food. It smelled so nice. Brae was amazed. How did Lord Tava carry a pitcher of milk in his cloak without spilling any?

"Now we must wash our hands." Lord Tava pulled out of his cloak a great big water bottle. Brae could not believe Lord Tava's cloak held so much. He just had to ask.

"Lord Tava, can I ask you a question?"

"Of course, Prince Brae."

Brae quickly changed his mind and just commented, "You forgot the knives and forks."

Lord Tava scratched his head. "I keep forgetting things these days. Now there are knives and forks in this Age. Can you put them on the table cloth please?" he asked Will.

Everyone had cleaned their hands with the water bottle, except for one of the royal guards. It was his job to keep guard while the others ate, then he would eat. The rest sat down. Everyone gave thanks for their food. No way were the children going to start eating until they gave thanks for their food. For they all remembered Mr. Dragon telling them off.

The children ate the food without talking, because they were getting very tired. Will fell asleep before the meal was finished. Lord Tava picked up Will and carried him to the middle and laid him down. He got a blanket from his cloak and covered Will as only a loving person could. Then he whispered quietly, "Sleep well, little Prince."

Gwynneth gave a loud yawn which made Brae yawn loudly too.

"Time you two got some sleep. We've still got a long walk ahead of us," said Lord Tava in a fatherly voice.

"Why can't the guards carry us tomorrow?" asked Gwynneth, yawning.

Lord Tava smiled. "Two reasons. One, you are more easily seen, being carried. And, two, you would be too heavy to carry for such a long way."

Gwynneth yawned, then another, trying to hide the yawning with her hand.

"Sleep for you two now." Lord Tava pointed to where Will was asleep.

"Yes, time for sleep. I am very tired now," yawned Brae.

Lord Tava put his hand in his cloak and got out two blankets.

"Go to sleep next to Will."

The children had been sleeping for some time when a high-pitched scream broke the silence of the night. Then there was another, waking up Gwynneth.

"Wake up, Brae," she nudged him as another shriek sounded.

Then there was a booming roar and this made Brae sit up wide awake.

"What was that?" he asked, looking at Gwynneth who had a horrified look on

her face. She flung her arms around Brae.

"Is it coming to eat us?"

"No, Gwynneth. It is far below us. Remember what Lord Tava told us. They can't get us up here. They can't climb up trees."

"Oh," said Gwynneth and she stopped hugging Brae. "That's alright then." And Gwynneth pulled the blanket over herself and quickly fell back to sleep.

Brae looked over to see if Will was still sleeping. He was sound asleep. Brae looked around to see a royal guard standing on duty. Everyone else was asleep. Brae lay down to go back to sleep. He looked at the very bright stars and he was amazed at how big the full moon looked. They had always lived in cities where the sky was polluted. Brae watched the moon grow higher and higher into the sky. Brae rubbed his eyes because he was getting very sleepy. When he stopped, it looked like the moon had disappeared. He rubbed his eyes again to see if he was not dreaming. It looked like there were hundreds of dragons flying in the sky.

Chapter 9

Betrayed

"Wake up, wake up. It's time to wash and eat your breakfast." Lord Tava gently shook each of the children.

"I don't want to wake up," mumbled Will as he pulled his blanket over his head.

"What you want and what you get is two different things, my young prince." Lord Tava pulled the blanket away from Will. Will made a face, gave a long yawn and stood up. Brae and Gwynneth were looking around when a lovely smell of hot food made their tummy rumble.

"Lord Tava. To the north, high in the sky. I see something," softly called out the royal guard. Lord Tava pulled a telescope out of his cloak and looked up to where the royal guard was pointing.

"Sky Scavengers! Quick, we have to leave at once!" Lord Tava ordered urgently. Before the children realized, they had been picked up and flown down to the forest floor. Sky Scavengers cannot land in the forest because the trees are too close together.

The speed that the Sky Scavengers were traveling was unbelievable. A scream rang out as a Sky Scavenger swooped down on Lord Tava and his royal guard. Lord Tava had been folding up the table cloth and food to stuff back into his cloak.

"Go!" yelled Lord Tava's guard as he grabbed his spear and flew at the Sky Scavengers. Lord Tava descended to the ground.

"Where's your guard?" asked Brae, looking around.

Lord Tava looked at Brae and said quietly, "He did like an Eketarian should."

Then the royal guards bowed their heads and stood still, holding their hands skyward and with respect, "May he have a safe trip to the Creator where he came from." Then they lifted their heads and pulled their swords from their scabbards. They pointed their swords skywards and cried out with pride, "Eketar live on!"

High above the tree tops there was a screeching sound.

"Don't worry, children. It cannot land on the forest floor. But we must move now, for it is letting the dinosaur men know we're here." Lord Tava's voice sounded reassuring. The children looked at one another.

"More Dinosaur men?" Brae asked.

"Yes. I'll tell about them later. We MUST move now." Lord Tava checked his sword in its scabbard.

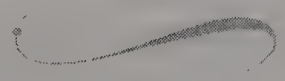
No one spoke or dared make a sound as they quickly moved through the forest. Lord Tava put his hand up and gave the stop sign, putting his finger to his lips. A faint clicking and hissing sound could be heard. Lord Tava gave a beckoning signal to come close to him. He whispered very quietly, "Dinosaur men ahead of us. Very, very quietly go and hide behind those trees and lay flat on the ground. I am going to take a look."

Lord Tava had just set out when a tiny little fairy appeared next to Lord Tava's ear and whispered into it, "Ambush ahead," making Lord Tava jump with surprise. Luckily he did not yell out. The tiny little fairy flew back in fright when Lord Tava jumped. It flew back next to Lord Tava's ear and whispered, "Dinosaur men ahead. I know a safe way around them. Where are the two princes and princess, Lord Tava?"

Lord Tava knew there were tiny little fairies in the dark forest watching the dinosaur people. But how did this little fairy know how many children there were? It had been kept very secret that they were coming. In a flash, Lord Tava grabbed the tiny fairy and stuffed him into his cloak. He had remembered a bit of an old poem, 'Beware of a fairy wearing red. Or you'll be dead.'

Chapter 10

River Crossing



It seemed forever that Lord Tava was away. When he got back he looked very worried. "Listen," he whispered quickly. "The dinosaur men are guarding all along the river. We must cross before nightfall."

Then Lord Tava looked at the royal guards, "I am ordering you to disobey your duty to guard the princes and princess with your lives. You create a diversion to get the dinosaur men chasing you." The royal guards looked at one another, for this was the first time they had ever had royalty to guard. But they dare not disobey Lord Tava.

"I've found a place the children can cross the river in safety. But it would be too dangerous for you to carry them across the river. You would be shot down before you got half across the river. Now let me think what would make a good diversion." Lord Tava started to think.

"I've got a good idea," whispered Gwynneth into Lord Tava's ear, shyly. "Why don't we make some dummies that look like us so it looks like the guards are carrying us?"

"Good idea, my Princess," whispered back Lord Tava. He put his hands into his cloak and whispered to everyone, "I am making some dummies to look like the children. The Princess Gwynneth gave me the good idea." Gwynneth's face went bright red. She was not used to praise. After a short time, Lord Tava pulled out three dummies that looked like the children. He passed one dummy to each royal guard.

"Now go and make a diversion. May the Creator go with you. Eketar thanks you for your sacrifice." Lord Tava clicked his heels and bowed his head for a short while. Then the royal guards flew off carrying the dummies.

"Lay flat on the ground, children, and pray they don't come this way," said Lord Tava as they all lay down. After a few minutes there was a sound of a horn. Then clicks and hisses and the sound of crashing through the forest.

"Lay low and don't move," whispered Lord Tava, as the sound of crashing seemed to be all around them. Then slowly the sounds faded away. "Quick! We have to run to the river as fast as you can. Follow me!"

For a person well over five hundred years old, Lord Tava could run very fast. It was very hard for the children to keep up with him. In a short time they were at the river.

"Don't stop," called Lord Tava as he went splashing into the river with the children following him. "It's too deep! Come out at once!" yelled Lord Tava over the roaring sound of the river. He climbed back onto the bank with the children following.

Lord Tava picked Will up and put him on his shoulders. Will gripped Lord Tava's head tightly. "Hang onto my hat, little prince, you will not fall off. You two, hang onto to my hands." Lord Tava extended his hands and the twins grabbed them. Then they went back into the river. Deeper and deeper the water got. It was just about up to their necks and running fast. "Hang on, you will be safe," Lord Tava smiled at them reassuringly.

They held Lord Tava's hands tightly. Somehow they got through the river and onto the opposite river bank, where Dragon Little was waiting for them on a tree branch.

"All praise to the Creator. You got here safely." Dragon Little was overjoyed to see them. Lord Tava lifted Will off his shoulders.

"That's better. How does it go on this side of the river, Dragon Little?" asked Lord Tava.

"They're all gone. Chasing after something. I thought it was you," grinned Dragon Little. "I'm not sure if they left anyone spying to keep a look out on this side," added Dragon Little as he flew into Will's open arms. "Nice to see you

Master Will."

Will gave Dragon Little a hug. "It's nice to see you too, Dragon Little. I was so worried about you." Dragon Little was enjoying being hugged by Will. "Now let's get out of the open and into the forest."

Lord Tava looked at the children. They were shivering with cold. They walked into the gloomy forest. 'It would be nice to see the sunlight,' Gwynneth thought. Lord Tava shook his long beard and hair.

"That's better. Now to get you some dry clothes." Lord Tava put his hand into his cloak and pulled out some clothes and looked at them. "For you, little princess. Go get changed. I just forgot you need shoes and a towel to dry off. Dragon Little will guard you." Gwynneth went off with Dragon Little. "Now for you two....mmm these are for you, Prince Brae." Lord Tava handed the clothes to Brae.

"Can I have knight's clothes?" asked Will hopefully.

"To wear knight's clothes, you must earn them, little prince." Lord Tava put his hand into his cloak and pulled out more clothes and a towel and passed them to Will. Will looked disappointed but said nothing. The boys got changed.

"What do we do with these wet clothes?" asked Brae, feeling nice and warm.

"Pass them to me." Brae and Will passed Lord Tava all the wet things. Lord Tava put them into his cloak. Gwynneth came back.

"Dragon Little asked me to tell you that he has gone ahead to make sure it was safe for us," said Gwynneth.

"Have you brought all your wet clothing? It is very important you have," asked Lord Tava.

"Yes," said Gwynneth, passing Lord Tava her wet clothing. Without realizing it, Gwynneth had left a bit of clothing behind.

Chapter 11

Dragonfly Valley

The noise of the waterfall was deafening. It hurt the children's ears. They put their hands over their ears and pressed as hard as they could. Still, they could hear the thundering noise of the waterfall. Lord Tava yelled out at the top of this voice, "Get behind me and follow me!" Lord Tava walked straight for the waterfall. Gwynneth closed her eyes against the water spray and grabbed Lord Tava's cloak. Brae put Will behind him and grabbed Gwynneth's shoulders and closed his eyes tightly.

"Grab my back, Will!" yelled Brae as loudly as he could. Will, being Will, peeped around from Brae's back to see what looked like a tunnel opening up in the waterfall. Before he could say anything, Dragon Little flew into it.

"Look Brae! The waterfall has got a tunnel in it!" Will yelled out with excitement. He had never walked through a waterfall before. Brae opened his eyes just as they stepped into the waterfall tunnel. Gwynneth opened her eyes and let go of Lord Tava's cloak to see water falling all around them. How come she was not getting wet?

Brae asked Lord Tava as they started to walk in the tunnel, "How come we didn't get wet when we walked through the waterfall bit? Is it magic, Lord Tava?"

"Good question, Prince Brae. No magic. Magic is a word of man when he doesn't understand. There is no such thing as magic," said Lord Tava. He was very pleased that Brae had asked a good question.

"What is it then, Lord Tava?" asked Brae, full of curiosity.

"It is just the way things are. You will learn to understand later. For you are entering the way of the fairies now."

"Can the dinosaur men follow us?" asked Brae.

"No. They cannot enter through this tunnel. This tunnel is only known to a few," answered Lord Tava.

"Why?" asked Brae.

"It is just the way, and one does not question the way," said Lord Tava, putting his hand on Brae's shoulder. "Now, Brae, have you got anything else you want to know?" Lord Tava was very pleased that Brae was learning.

Just then, Will interrupted, "What happens to the baddies if they come in; do they get burnt up, or something like that?"

"Now, little prince, you must learn not to interrupt when others are talking."

Will gave Lord Tava a dirty look and said a whole lot of bad words under his breath as he looked at the tunnel floor. 'How dare HE tell him off. He was a prince NOW and princes do not get told off,' Will thought. Then Will started to pull a face and said bad words under his breath again.

Gwynneth was noticing as they walked through the tunnel a light lit up in the area they were walking in and went dark as they left the area. She looked back again to watch the light go out. She bumped into Will and they both fell over. Lord Tava then learned a lot of bad words that men used. Lord Tava picked up Gwynneth. Brae picked up Will.

"I never, never, never want to hear you using those words again," said Lord Tava, looking sternly at them. Gwynneth and Will walked behind Lord Tava and Brae, pulling faces at one another.

"Mmm, where were we? Oh, yes, do you have any more questions for me, Prince Brae?" Lord Tava was thinking he would have to put a stop to the children using bad man words, even though he did not understand them.

"Yes. I do not understand how we got here. It's weird. We went to bed and fell asleep and woke up in this strange land somehow." Brae had finally asked

the biggest question he had. Gwynneth and Will stopped pulling faces at one another to listen and moved next to Brae as they walked along the tunnel.

"Where to start," mused Lord Tava. He was quiet for a short time and then he spoke. "How did you get back home?" Lord Tava looked at the children and gave them a fatherly smile. "Yes, this is your home. You were sent to the time of man for your safety. I am sorry you had to have your memories of Eketar erased. It was done for your own safety."

Brae was going to ask why, but stopped himself.

"Don't ask how it was done. Only the Wise Ones know that, and how you were brought back. All I know is that one of the Wise Ones came to tell me that you would come back. The Wise One asked me to get my friend, Mr. Dragon, to meet you and to bring you to the Forest of Shadows where we were to meet you. The Dark Alliance has just about taken all of Eketar."

"What's an alliance," asked Will. "Sorry, I did not mean to interrupt."

"Good question, Little Prince." Will's face lit up. Lord Tava had not told him off. "The Dark Alliance is where everything evil to good has joined forces."

"Thank you," said Will.

"The Wise Ones told me to tell Mr. Dragon where you would be. He knew what week but did not know what day. For Mr. Dragon had to meet you at the meeting place. It would be unsafe to travel here by foot."

"Why could not Mr. Dragon fly into Dragonfly Valley?" asked Gwynneth.

"This is not the only way we can enter Dragonfly Valley. Only fairies and very small dragons can go through here to Dragonfly Valley. And also it would be too dangerous for big Mr. Dragon to land near the waterfall," winked Lord Tava.

The children eagerly listened to every word Lord Tava was saying.

"Can I ask a question again?" asked Gwynneth hopefully.

"Yes, Princess."

"If we're fairies, where are our wings?"

"Not all fairies have wings," answered Lord Tava.

Just then, they turned a corner in the tunnel. Bright sunlight hit them, blinding everyone for a few seconds. They stepped out of the tunnel. It was everything the children thought a beautiful place would be like. Lord Tava gave thanks to the Creator that they had arrived safely. Dragon Little flew up to them and started flying around them, saying, "Welcome home! Welcome home!"

Chapter 12

Fairies in the Bedroom

The sunlight streamed through the bedroom window onto Gwynneth's face, slowly wakening her. It was so nice to hear the sounds of birds singing again. Half asleep, Gwynneth felt a tickle on her face and wrinkled up her nose. Then there was another tickle. She wiped her nose with the back of her hand. Another tickle. Now she heard giggling. Sleepily, she opened her eyes to see a tiny little fairy with a feather just as big as she was. The fairy was about ready to tickle Gwynneth again.

"Go away," said Gwynneth, sleepily waving her hand in the air. The fairy gave a screech, dropping the feather as she flew into the air with a somersault. Gwynneth sat up slowly, rubbing her eyes to see more tiny little fairies sitting on the end of her bed, laughing at what had happened to the other fairy.

They stood up on the bed, curtsied, and said, all together, "Good morning, Princess." Then they started giggling. Gwynneth quickly pulled the bed blankets over her head. It was not every day you saw tiny little fairies sitting on the end of your bed. Slowly she peeped around from the side of the blankets.

"Good morning, Princess," they said again, giggling from the end of the bed. Gwynneth quickly pulled the blankets as hard as she could over her head. Then she kicked her legs as hard as she could up and down under the blankets. This sent the fairies flying into the air, screeching loudly. Gwynneth looked out from under the blankets and started to laugh.

"Good morning, little, little fairies."

"Good morning, Princess, again." The fairies were giggling and flew down and sat around Gwynneth. She was wide awake and laughing with delight at what she had done to them. It had looked so funny to see them bouncing into the air.

"Gee, you're tiny. You're only as big as my hand," said Gwynneth with her hand stretched out. "Do pussycats try to eat you?"

"What are pussycats, Princess?" the fairies asked.

"Hairy things that purr," answered Gwynneth, looking at them in surprise.

"No, we do not have such things here, Princess."

"Oh," said Gwynneth, disappointed. She had always wanted to have a pussycat of her own. "It's funny, everyone calling me princess. Princess Who?"

"Our Princess!" exclaimed the fairies, giggling.

Just then, a knock on the door; and, "May I come in, Princess?"

"Wiggle Woggle Bum," whispered the fairies very quietly. "Can we go, Princess? If she knows we are here we'll get into trouble again." There was another knock at the door.

"Yes, go." The fairies quickly flew out the window. Gwynneth made sure all the fairies were out of the room. Then in a nice, sweet, sleepy voice, she answered, "Come in."

In walked an old fat lady, and how her body wiggled and wobbled. "Good morning, Princess, my name is..."

Without thinking, Gwynneth completed her sentence, "Wiggle Woggle Bum!" and burst out laughing.

"Have those naughty little fairies been in here?" demanded old Wiggle Woggle Bum angrily. Her entire body started to shake. She looked like a wobbling jelly. This made it worse for Gwynneth. Tears of laughter started to roll down her face. It was the right name, Wiggle Woggle Bum. Gwynneth was rolling on the bed with laughter.

"A princess you might be, but rudeness I will not take. Call me that name again and you will learn the consequences!" said the old lady with her hands on her hips. Gwynneth muffled her laughter quickly.

Chapter 13

What the Boys were Doing

Will woke up very early and was unable to go back to sleep. He was very upset for he had dreamed he had met a sister. She told him her name was Katherine and that she was Will's twin sister. She asked Will to play with her for she was very lonely. They were having so much fun playing together when Katherine started to cry. Crying, she asked Will to come and get her. For she was missing so much her brothers and sister. Will woke up to the sound of Katherine crying. Will lay in bed for some time, then got out of bed and went to Brae's room, for Brae had always comforted Will when he was upset.

"Brae, wake up. Wake up!" Will shook Brae. Brae just muttered a few bad words. "Brae, wake up. I got something to tell you!" Will shook Brae harder and Brae said some more bad words as he opened his eyes sleepily to see Will just about to shake him again.

"Go away, Will." But Will started to shake Brae again. Brae grabbed Will's hands and sat up. "What do you want?"

"I've got a twin sister, Brae, and her name is Katherine, and she wants us to come and get her. Will broke away from Brae's grip and sat on the bed. Brae was wide awake now.

"Funny, I had a dream too. I had a little sister and she was your twin and she wanted us to get her." Brae looked hard at Will. "And Katherine was telling me WHERE to get her when YOU woke me up."

"You used naughty words again, Brae. Lord Tava told us that we were not allowed to use them anymore." Then Will poked out his tongue.

"You better not tell, Will; you know what happened to you last time." Will knew Brae meant it by the look on his face.

"OK, won't tell. Anyway I am not a tattletale." Also Will remembered what Brae did to him last time. Will rubbed his arm. Brae was awake now. No way would he be able to go back to sleep now.

"Will, we might as well get dressed now..."

Will interrupted, "We're going to eat breakfast first before we go and get our sister." For Will loved eating breakfast. He had never had breakfast until coming to Eketar. It was nice he never felt hungry now.

"Don't be silly. We're just going to look outside until breakfast time. So go get dressed, but be quiet; everyone is asleep." Brae liked eating too. Will got dressed as quietly and quickly as he could and started to creep back to Brae's room. Brae came out of his bedroom door, meeting Will in the hall. Brae put his fingers to his lips and Will shook his head, understanding what Brae meant.

They quietly started to creep down the very long hall to the door. The floorboards started to creak. The more carefully they tried to creep quietly, the louder the floor creaked. Somehow they managed to get to the door without waking anyone. Brae tried the door. It was unlocked. He gave Will a smile of relief. Very slowly, Brae started opening the door. The creaking sound the door made would have wakened the dead.

Brae stopped opening the door when there was just enough room for them to squeeze through. He held the door as Will squeezed through. Then Will held the door for Brae. When Will let the door go, it seemed to open wide all by itself and then slammed shut, making Brae and Will jump with fright. They ran and ran as fast as they could away from the house, until they could run no more.

They found themselves in a field of very long grass. Brae looked at Will. His face was bright red and he was puffing as heavily as Brae was. Brae dropped to the ground and lay on his back. Will laid on his back too. They must have fallen asleep in the long grass. Brae woke to the sound of a snort and felt a hot breath on his face.

"Good morning, Master Brae. Had a nice sleep?" Brae sleepily yawned, had a good stretch, and yawned again, then opened his eyes slowly to see a horse face just above his face. Brae rubbed his eyes. No, it wasn't a horse, it was a unicorn. It had a long horn in the middle of its head. Brae sat up, just about hitting the unicorn's head. The unicorn gave a whinny as it pulled its head away. "You're awake!"

"A unicorn! I've always wanted to ride a horse! Can I have a ride on you?" Then Brae noticed Dragon Little sitting on the unicorn's back. "Good morning, Dragon Little."

"And a good morning to you, Master Brae. Dragon Little noticed Will was still sound asleep. Brae stood up and started to pat the unicorn on the neck.

"What's your name?" asked Brae. He loved the smell of the unicorn.

"My name is Moon Light. By the way, I love being rubbed behind the ears." Brae started rubbing Moon Light behind the ears. If Moon Light could have purred like a pussycat, he would have been doing it.

"I thought unicorns were only in fairy stories." Brae was still rubbing Moon Light behind the ears.

"You are in the land of fairies, Master Brae."

"Oh, I forgot." Brae pulled a silly face. "But it's still very hard to believe. It's like a dream; do you know what I mean?" Brae looked at Dragon Little.

"No, not really. I think Lord Tava would understand for dragons do not dream like the way fairies do."

"It is the same for me, for everything dreams different," said Moon Light.

"I understand." Brae nodded his head. "Can I have a ride on you?" Brae's face looked hopeful.

"Yes, you can ride me whenever you want to. But always remember you do not own me, for no one can own any living thing in the land of Eketar - or should it be anywhere?" Moon Light spoke with conviction. He felt for all who had now become enslaved. "May the darkness go and everything live in freedom." Dragon Little had tears in his eyes. Together they cried out.

"Eketar live on!" Then they were silent for a few seconds.

Will woke to the battle cry, 'Eketar live on.' Will stood up and called out, "Eketar live on!" And everyone called back, "Eketar live on!"

Will now was wide awake. He looked in wonder. Why did the horsy have a pointy thing in the middle of its head?

"Dragon Little!" Will yelled with delight when he noticed him sitting on the back of Moon Light. Will took Dragon Little off Moon Light to give him a big hug. "I love you Dragon Little! Where were you last night? I want you to sleep with me." Will's face was beaming with happiness.

"And I love you too, Master Will." Will's face beamed even more.

"Where were you last night, I missed you." Will sounded sad.

"I was asleep of course. Master Will, don't hug me too tight or I'll go pop." Will released his grip and just about dropped Dragon Little on to the ground. Will was horrified. He didn't want to pop Dragon Little. He was his best friend. Dragon Little gave a laugh.

"You must remember, Master Will, I am a very little dragon."

"Sorry. Sorry. I never want to pop you."

"I know you never want to pop me. We are the best of friends." Will's face broke into a big smile.

"Why don't you want to sleep with me?"

"Dragons don't sleep in houses. We sleep in caves, trees, or anything that is high off the ground."

"I didn't know that." Will was so glad to hear that. Will was so worried that Brae had told Dragon Little that Will made smelly sounds a lot when he was asleep and stunk out the bedroom.

"Could you please put me back on Moon Light, Master Will?" Dragon Little wanted to have a good stretch before flying.

"Why has that horsy got a pointy thing on his head?" asked Will as he put Dragon Little onto Moon Light's back.

"His name is Moon Light, not horsy. You ask him." Dragon Little started to have a good stretch.

"Mr. Moon Light, why do you have a pointy thing on your head? Can I touch it?" Will had already lifted his hand to touch it.

"I am a unicorn and all unicorns have a horn on their heads. Thank you for asking. Yes, you may touch my horn." Moon Light lowered his head.

"Gee, it's hard. Is it a sword? Do you fight with it?" Will was very impressed.

Moon Light lifted his head up.

"I pray to the Creator I never have to use it as a weapon, but I will if I have to use it in the defense of Eketar."

Dragon Little flew off Moon Light's back and started flying around everyone, saying, "It's time you two went back to the house, for breakfast must be ready soon." Will had forgot about breakfast.

"I don't want to miss breakfast, Brae. Remember we've got to find Katherine after breakfast."

"That's why I am here. To take you two back to the house for breakfast." Moon Light, like everyone in Eketar, knew the story about the missing Queen and Princess Katherine, but wondered how Master Will knew about Katherine. Had Lord Tava told them already?

"Goody! I get to ride a horse!" Brae corrected himself, "Unicorn."

"Yes, Master Brae, it looks like one of your wishes has come true. Now put Master Will on my back. But I have to have a roll on my back first. Dragons make me itch."

"I heard that! Why didn't you tell me?" Then Dragon Little poked his tongue out at Moon Light. Moon Light did not say anything for he was enjoying his roll. After a few more rolls, Moon Light stood up and had a good shake. Dust and unicorn hair flew everywhere.

"That's better. Now you can put Master Will on my back." Brae picked up Will and put him on Moon Light's back. Will grabbed Moon Light's mane. "Now, Brae, put your arms around my neck and swing yourself onto my back. Brae

put his arms around Moon Light's neck, gave a big jump, and swung himself up, knocking Will off. Will gave a yell as he fell to the ground with Brae landing on top of him. To Brae's surprise, Will burst out laughing. Dragon Little burst out laughing too, for it looked so funny.

Brae got off Will, laughing, "I'll try again," then pulled Will from the ground. Brae went to put Will on Moon Light.

Laughing, Moon Light said, "Master Brae. You always mount a unicorn from the left side and put Master Will farther down my back, so you've got room to swing on." Brae put Will on Moon Light's back and slung on successfully. "Well done, Master Brae. You're going to make a master unicorn rider. Now, Master Brae, hang onto my mane and Master Will, put your arms around Master Brae." Brae's chest filled with pride to be told he would be a master unicorn rider.

Moon Light lifted his head with pride and gave a whinny. "Hang on, we'll be moving off now." Moon Light seemed to float as he galloped back to the house with Dragon Little leading them. Brae and Will were enjoying it so much they did not want the ride to end. Moon Light stopped at the doorway of the house. As the door opened, Lord Tava and Gwynneth stepped out.

"You haven't eaten breakfast yet, have you?" Will was so worried about missing breakfast.

"Good morning, Little Prince. No, we have not yet had breakfast. And a good morning to you, Prince Brae, and Dragon Little." Lord Tava lifted his hat. "Thank you, Moon Light, for getting them."

"It's my pleasure, dear friend."

"It's a unicorn!" Gwynneth jumped up with delight. "Can I have a ride on him?"

"You have to go and ask yourself." Lord Tava felt pleased to see the children so happy. Gwynneth ran over to Moon Light, ignoring Brae and Will.

"You're beautiful. Can I please have a ride on you, if you're not too tired?"

"I'd be honored to take you for a ride, Mistress Gwynneth."

Brae jumped off Moon Light and then lifted Will off. "I can jump off myself!" protested Will.

"That's good, Master Brae. You can mount and dismount by yourself." Then Moon Light shook his back. "That's better now, Master Brae. You can put Mistress Gwynneth on my back." Brae lifted Gwynneth onto Moon Light.

"Hang on to the mane, Gwynneth," puffed Brae. Gwynneth seemed to be getting heavier.

"Are you ready to go now, Mistress Gwynneth?" asked Moon Light.

"Oh, yes, but you won't go fast?" Gwynneth gripped the mane tightly. Moon Light trotted off. Out of nowhere, tiny little fairies dressed in all colors started to land on Moon Light's back, chatting away cheerfully to Gwynneth.

Chapter 14

The King of Eketar

A year and one day had passed so quickly for the children. They had known nothing but love and kindness. They had never been so happy. Brae had become a great unicorn rider, for there was never a day when Brae was not riding Moon Light. Will was forever laughing and did everything he was told to do. Will would say 'OK' with a smile on his face and do it. But Gwynneth and the little fairies were forever getting into trouble with Wiggle Woggle Bum. Her hair was turning grayer trying to get Gwynneth to act like a royal princess.

The children had just finished eating dinner when Brae asked, "May I please leave the table now?"

"No, Prince Brae, I want to talk to all of you, so stay seated please." The children looked at one another. Lord Tava looked and sounded very serious. He had called Brae 'Prince'. He had not used that word for a long time. "It's time for you to go and look for your mother - my queen - and your sister.

"What sister!" interrupted Gwynneth.

"It's my twin sister and her name is Katherine." Will was so pleased he knew something that Gwynneth did not know.

"But you told Will and I that Katherine was only a dream! Why did you lie to us!" Brae was very hurt that Lord Tava had lied to them. He thought Lord Tava was not like other grownups that always lied to them.

"May the Creator forgive me for lying to you, Prince Brae. Prince Will, it is not in my nature to lie. But the time was not right to tell you." Lord Tava felt sorrow to see the look on Brae's face.

"Why doesn't anyone tell me anything?" whined Gwynneth, trying to get someone's attention.

"Because you're a GIRL," Will poked out his tongue.

"You're just a silly BOY!" Gwynneth poked her tongue back at Will. Then they started to make faces at one another and for the first time in a very long time, they started using bad words.

"QUIET YOU TWO! I have a lot to tell you and I never want to hear you two using bad words again. And no fighting." Lord Tava was very annoyed at Gwynneth and Will that they had started to use bad language again. Gwynneth and Will shut up at once.

"That's better. I don't want to hear another word from you until I ask you to speak." Gwynneth and Will looked sheepishly at the table, knowing they had done wrong.

Sarcastically, Brae asked, "Why was it not the right time to tell us?"

"Prince Brae, you must understand sometimes one has to make decisions one does not like. But it is for the good of all. One day you'll be king and you'll have to make decisions you will not like." Lord Tava started to wipe tears from his eyes. Brae felt awful and did not know which way to look. Gwynneth got up from her chair and gave Lord Tava a big hug. "I am getting sentimental in my old age. Sit quietly, children, and I shall start."

This is what Lord Tava told them:

"Everything that seemed evil to our way of life had joined forces with the dark fairies. No one knew where they came from. Kingdom after kingdom had fallen to their path of destruction. Panic was spreading through Eketar as a few refugees found their way to Eketar telling stories of horror. Eketar had never had any need of an army. There were a few royal guards but they were only for ceremonial duties, for we always lived in peace and harmony. The king, your father..."

The children's ears perked up, for this was the first time they had ever heard

their father mentioned.

The king sent out messengers asking for volunteers to defend the fairy way of life and to bring anything they thought would make a weapon. For the fairy women and the young and old and those who did not want to fight to bring food and what they needed for a long journey. Everyone was to gather at the Tree of All Things on the day of the long sunshine.

A great crowd had gathered at the Tree of All Things. It looked like most of Eketar was there. Rumors were around, putting the crowd into a state of near panic. A sound of a trumpet rang out. The royal body guard made its way through the crowd with the King and Queen and Lord Tava, so they could stand at the trunk of the Tree of All Things.

The royal body guards held their shields over their heads to make a platform. The king flew up onto it. Not a sound could be heard as the king began to speak, "Fairy folks and dear friends. It is a sad day for Eketar. As you all know, the dark forces are about to invade Eketar. I am asking for volunteers to fight. I know I could order you, but all I ask is for volunteers to follow your king and the royal body guard into battle." A quiet murmur spread through the crowd. When it died down the king started to speak again.

"Beware those of you who volunteer, the likelihood of your returning is not good. But if you volunteer your sacrifice will give time for those you love to escape to safety."

"To where," called out an old fairy.

"To a place far, far away from here. It is called Dragonfly Valley."

"But, my king, it's only a legend, a place where myths come from," called out the old fairy.

The king smiled, "Is Lord Tava a myth? I think not. That is where he comes from." The old fairy fell silent for the king would have no reason to lie. The king pointed to a big rock. "Those who wish to volunteer, please stand by the biggest rock. Please remember there is no shame in anyone not wanting to fight." The king watched in astonishment. Tears came to his eyes to see everyone, bar two, moving to stand next to the big rock.

"No, no, good fairy folk and good friends. You all cannot go to fight."

It seemed like one voice, 'Where our king goes, we go.' This was the king's most proud moment in his life. The king wiped the tears from his eyes.

In a voice full of emotion, he said, "May the Creator bless all of you." Then the king bowed to them four times and flew off the platform to the ground and walked over to Lord Tava. The royal body guards lowered their shields and marched over to where everyone was standing

"I cannot believe what I am seeing. Why?" The king asked. He could hardly speak; he was so moved by what he saw.

"To show you their love and loyalty to you, my king. Please stand here." Lord Tava walked over to where everyone was standing and joined them. Everyone bowed to the king and then all the fairy folk stood up and cried out,

"To the death we follow our king! Eketar will live forever!"

Then without a word being said, the fairies divided into two groups, one for battle and one to flee to the safety of Dragonfly Valley.

Chapter 15

The Dramatic and Sorrowful Parting Scene

A tiny little fairy scout who had been watching the advance of the army of the dark forces flew straight to the king. Without permission she started to speak to the king, forgetting to bow to him. "Your majesty, the dark forces will be at Outlander Pass by morning." Before the little fairy could say anymore, she had fallen to the ground with exhaustion. The king bent down and gently picked up the little fairy and called for a healer.

"Take this heroine of Eketar and take good care of her. Then the king gestured for Lord Tava to come closer. The king spoke with urgency in his voice, "We have to make haste for the enemy will be at Outlanders Pass by the morning. So we must be prepared to meet them there." In the same breath, for the king was speaking very fast, "Get everyone to say their farewells, for we must leave within the hour."

As Lord Tava walked over, he watched the volunteer warriors nervously fiddling with their so-called weapons. All praise to the Creator that archery was the most popular sport with the fairies. For a bow was a most deadly weapon in the right hands. Lord Tava was so pleased to see so many fairies had their bows. "It's time to say your goodbyes, but make it quick, for we must leave on the hour." Lord Tava's heart felt heavy with sadness, knowing that so many of these brave fairy folk would never see their loved ones again. All the birds had stopped singing and all that could be heard was the sobbing and crying as the loved ones said their goodbyes.

If anyone had felt so alone in his thoughts, it was the king. He smiled as he looked up to see the queen and his children come over to join him, with the queen's faithful lady-in-waiting, Sun Joy, carrying the newly born twins and five royal body guards who were never far away from the queen and the children. The queen flung her arms around the king's neck and started to sob. Gwynneth and Brae grabbed their mother's dress and hung on tightly, not understanding what was going on.

"My king, my husband, father of my children. I cannot live without you." The king's heart broke as he looked into her eyes full of tears.

The king gently kissed the queen on the lips and whispered, "I will never leave you for I will always be in your heart as you will always be in mine." Then the king gently took the queen's arms from around his neck. He whispered again, "Look at the children and you will always see me." The king kissed each of the children on the forehead and smiled at Sun Joy. "I know you will always look after the queen and the children. May the Creator always be with you." Then to the royal body guards, "Take care of my family." And the king walked away.

The queen was just about to cry out in grief when she heard Lord Tava's voice. "Let him be a king. Do not give him the worry that you will not act like a queen. Make him proud of you."

A sound of a drum beat boomed out and a cold chill ran up the queen's back. She wiped the tears back from her eyes and with the children and Sun Joy walked over to the fairy families to give them comfort as they all watched their loved ones getting ready to go forward to battle.

The royal standard was flying high. The king pulled his sword from his scabbard and raised it high into the air. He cried out as loud as he could, "Forward to victory so Eketar can live on!"

The sound of wailing bagpipes started up and then the louder sound of drums, raising the spirits of the rag tag army. Weapons they had few except for the bows. They mainly had farm tools like pitchforks, shovels, and hoes. As they moved off, a very old fairy began to sing the ancient fairy farewell song. Then everyone joined in, the marchers and those left behind. They kept singing it over and over again until their loved ones disappeared into fairy legend.

Chapter 16

The Wastelands

Knowing the enemy would be in hot pursuit soon, Lord Tava was forever urging the families to move as fast as they could, giving little time to rest. All sense of time had gone for it seemed they had been traveling south forever. Exhausted, they arrived at the edge of a vast wasteland. Lord Tava gave the order to rest, knowing they were too depleted to attempt to cross the great wasteland. But at the same time, knowing they could not linger too long. On the third day of resting, the smell of smoke was on the wind. That night they looked to the north to see the sky glowing red. They all knew that death would be upon them soon.

In the morning, no order was given. Everyone just packed their belongings and started to move into the wastelands in despair. Going through the wastelands, the only sound that could be heard was the sound of the wind which carried the foul smell of death. The sky, for those who cared to look up, was a very bright yellow blue and the ground they walked on was a dusty gray color with nothing growing on it. They traveled for the first day in the very hot sun. At long last, night came. Everyone was thirsty through the lack of water in the hot sun. Water was shared out to everyone, and then they all seemed to fall asleep.

In the morning they grudgingly moved on. Lord Tava reassured them they would find water soon. Halfway through the day, Lord Tava urged everyone to rest for the sun was getting too hot. They would travel by night. They tried their best to sleep during the day. It would be cooler to travel at night.

Just before morning came, they saw something which looked like lots of

ruined castles. Lord Tava showed the royal guards on a map where water might be found and to have a good scout around to see if it was safe to enter. After a long agonizing wait for Lord Tava, the royal body guards returned, their faces beaming with joy. Water had been found.

From ruin to ruin they traveled. No longer were they lacking in water. But hardship and sorrow followed them as the weak and old went to the Creator. After weeks of traveling a feeling of hopelessness was setting in. Arguments broke out over silly things. It was looking like they would never cross the wastelands. Even Lord Tava was starting to give up.

Then on the sixty-seventh day, as the sun started to rise, the faint sound of birds singing could be heard on the wind. They became aware of a smell of freshness of the wind, too, which reminded them of home. No one could sleep during the day, the excitement was too great. After four more nights and one day of traveling, they entered the Forest of Shadows and made camp under the coolness of trees.

When night came, terrifying sounds started up through the forest. Everyone grew frightened. When a high pitched scream rang out, followed by others, everyone looked at one another in horror and wondered what kinds of creatures were lurking in the forest. They all kept very close to the campfires, too fearful to move away from them. At last, morning came. It was still very cold and the forest was very gloomy looking. But the singing of the birds brought joy to everyone. Lord Tava gave the order to put the fires out and to get prepared to move.

Dinosaur Men appeared out of the morning mist. The fairies became alarmed for the dinosaur men were armed with all kinds of weapons and making a scary clicking sound. Then what looked like their leader stepped forward and put his weapons on the ground and set forward again. He spoke between clicks, "What are you doing in our lands, fairy folk. We have not seen your kind for hundreds of years."

Lord Tava stepped forward, then slowly pulled his sword from its scabbard and put it on the ground and stepped forward again. The dinosaur man beckoned to Lord Tava to come to him.

"Forgive me; I am the one who lead them here. I did not know these were your lands." Lord Tava had to lie for the safety of everyone. "If I had known I would ask for permission. We're only traveling through your lands to safety. We mean

to harm nothing." Lord Tava wondered how the dinosaur man could speak the language of the fairy folk.

"I see you have very few males, and few soldiers, if you call them soldiers." Then he turned to the other dinosaur men and said something in his clicking language which made them all laugh. Turning back to Lord Tava, the leader of the dinosaur men asked, "Do you have gold?"

Lord Tava thought very carefully before answering. "Yes we have gold with us, but not much. Why do you inquire?"

"You may travel through our lands if you give us gold." The dinosaur man was rubbing his claws together.

"You can have what gold we have." Lord Tava thought it would be better to give all the gold they had. What use would it be if they were all dead? For sure they were going to get the gold. No way could they stop them from taking it.

"Good, you agree to give us ALL your gold. We are a warrior race. It would be no fun to take your gold away from you. Where is the rest of your race? We have been watching you for days. We know there are no more of you."

"Dead, most likely. May the Creator have mercy on them." Lord Tava bowed his head.

"How?"

"In battle, trying to stop the enemy and give us time to escape." This impressed the dinosaur leader.

"Ha. Warriors."

"No, just fairy folk trying to save their way of life."

"No. Real warriors," said the leader. "Now. The gold."

None of the fairies argued giving what gold they had. They were terrified of the dinosaur men. They looked so evil.

"That's all you have? It's so little. Are you hiding any?" angrily asked the leader.

"Why would we hide any?" Lord Tava was getting worried.

"We shall search you all. If you are hiding any, you will be traveling nowhere."

For dinosaur men loved gold more than anything else.

"Tell your toy soldiers to put down their weapons or we will kill everyone," mocked the dinosaur leader.

Lord Tava asked the royal body guards to put their weapons down. They would not. Lord Tava walked over to the queen. "Tell your guards to put down their weapons or we shall all be killed." The queen ordered the royal body guard to lay down their weapons. After searching everyone and everything twice, the dinosaur leader walked over to where Lord Tava was standing next to the queen who was holding baby Katherine.

"We want more gold. It is not enough."

"But we have no more," protested Lord Tava.

"You will have to get more. Your queen and her child will be our guests until you bring us more." The dinosaur leader did not realize that there were three more royal children. If known, he would have kept them too.

Calmly, Lord Tava asked, "How much gold do you want from us?"

The dinosaur leader had a short think. "The weight of your queen and her child, ten times."

"Yes, we will stay with you until more gold is brought to you. Gladly will I stay with you with my child. But you must let my people carry on with their travel. Have I your word?"

The queen sent a quick telepathic warning to her lady-in-waiting and nursemaid, 'Keep the children with you. Keep them safe. Do not let the dinosaur people know who they are. Lord Tava will tell you everything later.'

The queen, with Katherine in her arms, watched everyone move away.

"Come Queen, we must go now," said the dinosaur leader.

Knowing that they would be followed to see where they were going and knowing that the dinosaur people did not like bright sunlight, Lord Tava knew they would have to travel the long way around to Dragonfly Valley through the Plains of the Blue Grass.

He knew it would take a very long time and they might be in danger. Lord

Tava made the agonizing decision to send the remaining children through the Gate of Time for their safety, for it was nearby. That is another story to be told later.

After a very long journey, the fairies arrived safely at Dragonfly Valley.

Chapter 17

Searching for Mother

The children were all sitting on Moon Light with Dragon Little and two of the naughtiest little fairies in the whole of Dragonfly Valley, Sun Beam and Rain Drop. Wiggle Wobble Bum was so pleased to see them go, but deeply worried for the children. The words of Lord Tava were still ringing in their ears, "It is time for you to go now and find your mother and sister. No others can."

Gwynneth got the crystal from her neck to see which way to go. She held it high in the air. A light shone like an arrow out of the crystal, pointing the direction. "That way," Gwynneth pointed and they looked down to the Forest of Shadows below them.

"Are you showing it pointing to the Forest of Shadows?" Brae questioned.

"Yes, it is pointing that way," said Gwynneth.

Will whispered to Dragon Little so the others could not hear him, "I don't like it in there. There are dinosaur men and monsters in there."

"You're a big boy, now, Master Will. Anyway you have to look after Gwynneth and even Brae," whispered back Dragon Little. Will's face lit up with delight. He was a big boy now.

Brae's legs were shaking with fear, and so were Gwynneth's.

"Don't worry, children. Remember I can run as fast as the wind." Moon Light's voice sounded reassuring.

Dragon Little flew onto Brae's shoulder and started talking to him, "You must remember, Master Brae, you are to be the leader. Lord Tava told you, and you are going to make a very good leader." The whole of Brae's face broke into one big smile that Dragon Little believed in him. "I hope you don't mind from time to time I give you a little advice. That is what old dragons are here for. We like to think we know it all." Dragon Little felt so good to see that smile on Brae's face.

Laughing, Brae said, "Yes."

"Well, here's very important advice I am going to give you." Brae listened very carefully to what Dragon Little was going to say. "Now we are going to the Forest of Shadows. You are going to have to light a very big fire and keep it burning all night, for Moon Light cannot climb trees and hide like you can. But the brightness of the fire will keep the dinosaur men and monsters away. For they do not like fire and cannot look at anything bright.

Gwynneth and Will were listening to everything that Dragon Little was telling Brae. Gwynneth started to sniff as she wiped tears from her eyes. For she still had nightmares sometimes of what had happened in the Forest of Shadows. Will was sitting behind Gwynneth. He put an arm around her shoulders and gave her a squeeze, "Don't worry, Gwynneth. Dragon Little would never lie to us."

These words moved Dragon Little, "That's right Gwynneth, I'll never lie to any of you." Gwynneth gave a sniff and then tried to smile. She knew Mr. Dragon would never lie to her and she hoped Dragon Little was like Mr. Dragon.

"Shall we go now, Master Brae?" asked Moon Light.

Before Brae could answer, Dragon Little asked, "Excuse me for interrupting. Could Sun Beam and Rain Drop come with me? For I would like to scout ahead. I might have reason to send them back with messages."

"Good thinking. You may take them with you. And may the Creator be with you." Brae was rapidly becoming a leader.

"And may the Creator be with you," replied Dragon Little. Everyone watched them disappear into the sky.

Then Brae said, "Yes, Moon Light. We shall go now."

"Hang on tight everyone!" called out Moon Light. Moon Light slowly and sure-footedly made his way down to the Forest of Shadows.

Chapter 18

Return to the Forest of Shadows

Going through the forest was real spooky with a feeling of being watched and dinosaur men hiding behind every tree. Brae jumped with fright but somehow stopped himself from calling out. Dragon Little had landed on his shoulder. Gwynneth was pleased to see Sun Beam and Rain Drop landing on Brae's head.

"You've been a good boy, Master?" asked Dragon Little laughing. Will did not answer.

"Master Brae, there's a good place to camp just ahead with lots of dry branches lying on the ground to make a big fire. We scouted around everywhere and could see nothing."

They gathered up wood for the fire as fast as they could. Even Rain Drop and Sun Beam helped to gather wood for the fire. They did the best they could, for they knew it would be light and then in the next second it would be total darkness. Brae walked over to Moon Light, who was standing guard with Dragon Little. Moon Light was looking in one direction, while Dragon Little, on his back, was looking the other way.

"I've come to take all the gear off you now." Then Brae made a joke, "Just in case you have to run away to safety. You can't climb a tree like us," then Brae started to laugh a frightened laugh.

"Thank you Master Brae. No, I cannot climb trees like you or fly away." Moon

Light laughed too. Moon Light would never leave the children if they were in danger.

First, Brae took the saddle bags off Moon Light and put them near where the firewood was. Then he came to get the rest of the gear. "Gee, you're carrying a lot of things. I did not realize it was so much. With the three of us and this gear, I hope it is not too heavy for you."

Moon Light whinnied. "You three are light as a feather and the gear I don't even notice. But, Dragon Little, that's another story..."

"I heard that!" Dragon Little flew off Moon Light and landed on the pile of firewood.

"Came back, dear friend. I was just joking!" said Moon Light. "Got you!"

Dragon Little laughed, "I was just joking too," then flew back, landing on Moon Light's head so he would not be in Brae's way. Brae, grinning at Moon Light and Dragon Little, got the rest of the gear. Now there were only the two crossbows that Mr. Dragon had given them to get. Brae remembered what Lord Tava had told them, "Never use them. The only time you can use them is if your life is in danger."

The firewood was ready to be lit. Brae got the fire lighter from the saddle bag.

"Can I light it Brae?" asked Will, hopefully.

"No," said Brae. It was good to the leader. He got to do what he wanted to do.

"Please, please, can I light it?" asked Will.

"NO," said Brae.

"Why not?" asked Will

"Because I am the leader," bragged Brae.

"Mmm. Getting too proud and boastful," murmured Dragon Little to Moon Light.

"He's only a boy. He has a lot more growing up to do yet. But we shall keep him on the straight path. We all know who the real leader is, don't we?" Moon

Light replied. Dragon Little said nothing.

"Stand back!" yelled Brae.

Whoosh went the fire, as it burst into flames, going high into the air. Everyone jumped back. Brae's hair and eyebrows were scorched. Will yelled out to Brae, "See! I told you I should have lit it!" Then Will made a rude face at Brae. Brae did not notice for he was too busy patting furiously at his clothing, trying to put out the smoldering bits. Gwynneth rushed over to help. Will started to laugh, it looked so funny. Dragon Little flew over to Will and hovered in front of him.

"That's not very nice, Master Will. Go and help your brother." Then he flew back to Moon Light and Sun Beam and Rain Drop. Gwynneth and Will started getting dinner ready near the fire. Darkness had come quicker than they thought it would.

"Gee, there's not much for dinner, Will. I wish we had Lord Tava's cloak." Will did not answer for he was still sulking that Dragon Little had told him off. A clicking sound came out of the darkness. Gwynneth, Will, Sun Beam, and Rain Drop stopped what they were doing. Gwynneth and Will ran as fast as they could to Brae where he was putting wood on the fire. Sun Beam and Rain Drop quickly flew into an open saddle bag to hide.

"Travelers. Do not be alarmed. If we meant to harm you, I would have given the order to the archers to fire. You make good targets standing by the fire." Then an arrow whooshed past Brae and hit the fire.

Brae gave a yell and then shouted out, "Hit the ground!"

Moon Light quickly moved in front of the children lying on the ground, to shield them. Dragon Little lay on top of Will.

"Vanish, Dragon Little. You are no help to us here," whispered Moon Light.

Out of the darkness stepped a dinosaur man, looking away from the fire.

'Who fired the bow?' wondered Moon Light, looking at the dinosaur man and knowing dinosaur people could not stand bright light. Who fired the bow with such accuracy?

The dinosaur man spoke, "Brae, Will, Gwynneth. Your mother sent us to get you. She is very ill."

"Careful. Don't answer. Let's see what he's going to say," warned Moon Light quietly. The dinosaur man waited for an answer which did not come.

"Who is the leader? It must be you, Brae." Brae looked at Moon Light. His eyes were full of fear.

"I think it would be best if I went and talked to the dinosaur men. It could be a trick." Moon Light did not want Brae to feel that he was a coward. He was only a boy.

"Thank you." Brae's voice was nervous.

"You all better stay where you are. Whatever happens, don't try to run away," Moon Light ordered. Moon Light trotted over to where the dinosaur man was standing.

"I am the leader of these travelers. How can I help you?"

"Argh. So unicorns can talk. Tell everyone to stand up so we can see what they are doing. We don't want any tricks done," instructed the dinosaur man.

Moon Light turned around and called out, "Stand up everyone, please. So you can be seen." The children stood up.

"Do we have to stand up?" whispered Rain Drop from the saddlebag.

"I don't know. I don't think they can see us, so we will be very quiet and stay here," replied Sun Beam. Moon Light turned back to face the dinosaur man.

"You must trust me to turn your back on me," said the dinosaur man.

"I know you are an honorable person." Moon Light knew that dinosaur warriors lived the way of the old code.

"I thank you for that." The dinosaur man was gaining respect for Moon Light.

"Your name, unicorn?" asked the dinosaur man.

"Moon Light, and yours?"

"Blood Tooth. A name I earned," proudly answered the dinosaur man. Then he laughed to himself.

"How can I help you, Blood Tooth?" Moon Light was taking a liking to Blood Tooth and knew to trust him.

"I know the children of the Queen are with you for she told me so. Before you ask; yes, we are holding her and her daughter for ransom and warring with the fairies trying to rescue them. We of the warrior class like that way, for fighting gives us a reason for living."

Moon Light felt great sadness and sorrow that a living thing could think that way.

"We got our wish to fight against really great warriors. They moved into our lands a short time ago. We had a great battle in the forest. It went on for days. We managed to push them out of our lands. But we know they will be back with reinforcements. In the heat of the battle our king was seriously wounded. To cut a long story short, we knew the Queen was a healer. So we asked her for help, promising her and her daughter's freedom. But she fell ill and was too weak to help. She told us that her daughter called Gwynneth is a healer and a better healer than her. That she would be traveling in the forest soon. And here you are. May I call you friend?" asked Blood Tooth.

"Yes, my friend, you may call me that," replied Moon Light.

Chapter 19

Strange Alliances

The forest was so dark that the children could see nothing, riding on Moon Light's back. Terrifying sounds were all around them.

"Monster?" asked Will in a scared voice, as another one cried out.

"Yes, but we will be alright. There are dinosaur warriors guarding us," replied Moon Light. Will was so glad to be sitting between Brae and Gwynneth. Before Will could say anything more, "Be quiet. You know the dinosaur-warriors asked us to be very quiet," whispered Moon Light.

The children were very frightened, but at the same time, they were excited to be meeting their mother and sister. Light was slowly coming to the forest when the order to stop was given and everyone was to rest. The children got off Moon Light and had a good stretch.

"Help, help, let us out of here!" faint voices were coming from a saddlebag.

"Oh, sh...," goody-two-shoes Brae used a very bad word. "Sun Beam and Rain Drop are locked in a saddlebag." Brae went over and opened the saddlebag. Well, if you thought Brae used a very bad word, Sun Beam and Rain Drop used a lot of very bad words learned from Gwynneth in the early days of being in Dragonfly Valley. Moon Light could not believe what he was hearing. Lord Tava had worried that this might happen from the children but not the fairies. Fairies did not say things like that.

"Quiet you two! I'll deal with you later," Moon Light said firmly. Giggly Sun Beam and Rain Drop got out of the saddlebag and flew off, not saying a word. Moon Light watched them fly off into a tree, for they knew they were in trouble with him.

Then Moon Light noticed fairy archers flying toward them. The dinosaur warriors did not seem concerned as the fairy archers drew closer. To Moon Light's surprise, the dinosaur warriors called out a greeting, "Warriors-in-arms, we welcome you!"

The fairy archers landed, bowed to the children, and saluted the dinosaur warriors. 'How could this be?' Moon Light asked himself.

Everyone sat down to eat breakfast but Sun Beam and Rain Drop. They were still feeling too sick to eat. The children sat next to the fairy archers. They knew they were safe with them. As they started to eat, Will very carefully looked at the dinosaur warriors for some time. Then, in a loud voice, asked, "I thought dinosaur people hated fairies."

Blood Tooth was taken back in surprise. He looked at Will for a short time, which made Will feel very uneasy. "Hate is a very strong word for someone so young." Now everyone was looking at Will. Poor Will. He did not know which way to look. Then Blood Tooth continued, "Hate? No. Not toward the fairies. Disagreement. Yes. When we wanted something we thought they had. And we had something that you fairies wanted." He sighed and started again, "Now we have one thing in common. To get rid of these evil dark forces who come to destroy everything from our lands." He gave a hard look. "If we fall, it's your lands next. To you we are evil. Sadly you thought like this." Then he sighed again. "We'll find the good in one another."

The captain of the archers, said, "Yes, I pray to the Creator this will happen."

"We must get a move on soon for our king and your mother need you, Gwynneth," said Blood Tooth.

The children traveled to their destination on Moon Light. Sun Beam and Rain Drop had gone with the fairy archers. Dragon Little was nowhere to be seen. Will was getting very worried about Dragon Little. Had the monsters eaten him up? Will thought as hard as he could in his mind, 'Where are you Dragon Little? Are you alright?'

To Will's amazement, he heard Dragon Little reply back in his mind, 'I am alright Master Will. Don't worry about me. If you really need me, just call for me in your mind and I will come. But remember, dinosaur people and dragons do not get along.'

Will tried his hardest to talk more in his mind to Dragon Little, but it did not work. He just gave himself a headache.

As they traveled, Blood Tooth walked next to them and started to tell them what had happened. "About a week ago, a huge army came out of the wastelands. Unknown to everyone, a traitor had lead them through the wastelands. Messengers were sent to them asking them what they wanted, but sadly, they never returned. After they rested for a day or two on the edge of our lands, they started to move deeply into our lands, destroying every tree in their path." A sadness came to Blood Tooth's eyes, as he said in bewilderment to Moon Light, "Why? That's against nature."

Moon Light thought the fairies and the dinosaur people might have more in common than they realized. Then he answered Blood Tooth, "I wish I knew the answer."

"Maybe they weren't potty-trained right," interrupted Gwynneth. She thought it was funny, but everyone else glared at her.

Blood Tooth continued with what had happened. "We gathered an army together as quickly as we could. But we, the elite dinosaur warriors, are small in number, and most are untested in battle. We attacked at night. As you know, we can see in the dark. We, the dinosaur warriors, were riding on our war dinosaurs, leading the attack, with the rest of the army following by foot. We hoped the sound of the noise we were making coming toward them would panic them." Brae remembered all too well the terrifying noise the dinosaurs made. "Some of their army panicked, but most stood their ground. The battle raged on all night and half the next day. They had no answer to the war dinosaurs. We were slowly pushing them back," Blood Tooth said with pride in his voice.

"But, as the light came to the forest, arrows rained down at us from high in the trees. Our archers tried to fire back. But as soon as they left their cover, they were struck down by arrows. It was just about impossible to fire back. Things were looking very bad for us. Their foot troops were getting ready to attack. Then, to make things worse for us, our much cherished king was struck

by an arrow, badly wounding him. I must admit, to my shame, I thought things were looking hopeless for us," Blood Tooth said.

"No, my friend, I would have felt the same," said Moon Light. This seemed to make Blood Tooth feel better, so he started talking again.

"Then a horn sounded," Blood Tooth grinned to Will, who was hanging on to every word, "It was your lot, the fairies. They called out, 'Dinosaur people! We've come to help you!'" Blood Tooth grinned at Will again. "To cut a long story short, they saved us."

"We're just about here now. I must leave you now." Blood Tooth looked at Will's disappointed face. "Don't worry, Master Will. I'll tell you the rest of the battle story later." Then he left.

Chapter 20

City of Dinosaur People

As they were about to enter the city, Brae looked up in wonderment at the height of the city walls. He wondered why trees were growing up and over the city walls. Curiosity got the better of him and he had to ask Moon Light, "Is it not silly to have trees growing next to the wall. All an enemy would have to do is climb up a tree to get over the wall."

Moon Light whinnied and laughed, "Every thing has a reason, even though we might not understand the reason."

"Why?" asked Will.

"It is the way," replied Moon Light.

"And we all know the way is the way," Gwynneth, full of herself, said.

"I'd still like to know why have trees next to the wall?" demanded Brae.

"Don't demand, Brae, just ask nicely and I'll gladly tell you," snorted Moon Light. Then he made his way through the gate.

As they entered, fairy archers lined the way where they were going. As they passed, each fairy bowed to them. After they passed all the fairies, they saw Blood Tooth again, who gave the signal to stop and walked over to the children sitting on Moon Light. "Do you want to eat or see your mother and sister first?"

Blood Tooth knew it would be a waste of time trying to get Gwynneth to heal the king until she had seen her mother and sister. Anyway, he would never force Gwynneth to heal the king first, for he had children of his own.

All together, the children answered, "Our mother and sister, please."

"Well, go and see them," Blood Tooth pointed to a building where two royal guards were guarding the doorway.

The children paused at the doorway, quietly looking at their mother sleeping. She was just as beautiful as she had been in their dreams. Sleeping in a chair next to the bed was their sister. They all felt if they made a sound somehow they would disappear.

Will let out the loudest, smelliest fart he had ever done.

Their mother sat up in bed and opened her eyes. "William, that's not very nice."

At the same time, Katherine said, "Pew, what a stink!"

Will's face went bright red. He did not know which way to look.

"Gee, you stink," commented Gwynneth, holding her nose.

Brae had disappeared from the doorway, waving his hands in the air. The children had for years dreamt of the different ways they would meet their mother. But no one had ever dreamed of meeting this way! Poor Will, he felt the end of the world had come. The first time he had ever seen his mother she had to tell him off. Will did not know what to do, so he started to cry.

"Oh, my poor darling. Don't cry. Come to Mummy." Then she opened her arms wide. Will flung himself into her arms. She wrapped her arms around Will to comfort him. Katherine got up from the chair.

"My big sister! I always knew that you would come get us!" Katherine walked over to Gwynneth, grabbed her hand, and led her over to the bed. Mummy smiled at Gwynneth and Katherine.

"Come, you two, climb on the bed and join us." Tears of joy started to run down her face. Brae reappeared at the doorway, looked, and without a word joined everybody on the bed. Sobbing, Mummy gave all lots of hugs and kisses.

In between, she was saying, "My children, my children." But after a short time, Mummy's eyes closed and she slumped back onto the pillow.

Chapter 21

Help Mummy, Please!

Katherine looked at Gwynneth with pleading eyes. "You can help Mummy, Gwynneth."

"I don't know," she answered with a little bit of panic in her voice. Brae, Will, and Katherine went and stood at the end of the bed to watch Gwynneth.

Her face broke into a smile. She could hear Mr. Dragon's voice telling her she could heal Mummy as she had healed him. Gwynneth remembered what Fairy Stir Pot had told her. She removed the crystal from her neck and held it over Mummy. Gwynneth shut her eyes and visualized what was wrong with Mummy. Mummy was dying of a broken heart. She was missing Dad so much for their love was so strong and true.

The crystal started to get brighter and brighter, lighting up the room with a beautiful white light, making the children feel at peace. The chain on the crystal started to tingle and turn. Then singing came from the crystal. The language was in words the children did not understand. Mummy joined in the singing too. When the singing stopped, Mummy opened her eyes and started to cry tears of joy.

"My beloved husband, your father, is alive!" Then she fell back into sleep with a happy smile on her face.

The children did not want to leave their mother's room and no one made them. They laid their heads on the bed and fell into a happy and peaceful sleep.

Rain Drop and Sun Beam had joined them and sat on the end of the bed. They took turns staying awake guarding the children and their beloved queen. For they knew sometimes they had to take things seriously and not get into trouble.

Gwynneth was awakened by Rain Drop's voice whispering into her ear, "Wake up, Princess, wake up."

"I don't want to wake up," she sleepily replied.

"You must. There are dinosaur guards come to get you to take you to their king."

"Tell them to come back in the morning," mumbled Gwynneth. She was having such a lovely sleep.

"You must wake up and go to them. You promised to."

Even as sleepy as Gwynneth was, she knew if you gave a promise you have to keep your word. "OK, I am coming," said Gwynneth, rubbing her eyes.

"Follow us, Fairy Child," said one dinosaur guard.

The guard put his clawed hand out for Gwynneth to hold. They made their way to the king's palace and Rain Drop followed. Not a word was said. Blood Tooth met them at the palace, and in a grim voice said, "Follow me."

Gwynneth was led into a bedroom where the Dinosaur King lay on the bed. "Do what you can, Fairy Child, that is all I ask of you," said Blood Tooth. He went and stood in a corner of the bedroom.

Gwynneth took the crystal from her neck and held it over the King. The crystal went very bright and then started to fade.

"I cannot do anything. His wounds are too many. Death was near when the first arrow struck deep. Only the Creator has the power over life and death. I am sorry. There is nothing I can do." Gwynneth's voice was full of compassion.

Blood Tooth bowed his head. "You are right Fairy Child. Only the Creator has power over life and death. You can go now."

Chapter 22

Do You Want to Read Book Two?

Morning came. It was a joyous time for the children, but a sad time for Blood Tooth. For the king of the dinosaur men was Blood Tooth's father.

Everyone was eating their breakfast and talking to their mother all at once. Rain Drop and Moon Beam came flying into the room and excitedly spoke together, "Mr. Dragon's here!"

Gwynneth rushed out of the room to see Mr. Dragon. "You've come to take us home with Mummy. I knew you would come!" She could not stop hugging Mr. Dragon's leg.

From the box on Mr. Dragon's back, the Queen thanked Blood Tooth and told him that Fairies and Dinosaur People would always be friends. One day, together, they would drive out the evil from their lands, for good always countered evil. Some fairy archers and royal guards would stay and help the Dinosaur People.

The queen smiled at her children, saying, "I have all my children now, and one day your father will be with us too, and we will all live in the land of Eketar again."

"Take us home, Mr. Dragon."

"To Dragonfly Valley," nodded Mr. Dragon.

"Eketar live on!" shouted the fairy archers, royal guards, and dinosaur

people.

"Come on, Dad!" yelled Dragon Little, as he flew in front of Mr. Dragon.

Whoosh, whoosh, went Mr. Dragon's wings. The draft sent Dragon Little somersaulting through the air.

"Eketar live on!"

and that is

The End of Book One

End Notes

Brae is an old Scottish name.

Brae, Will, Gwynneth, Katherine, Matthew, and Joshua are real children. The real Katherine spells her name with a 'C' which we might fix-up in Book Two.

Matthew, as the dinosaur prince, and Joshua, as the Queen's new baby, will be featured in Book Two.

The font for this book is the lovely Papyrus.

You may write to our family at seahorse-stories earthlink.net.

Oh, Will insists on having one of his illustrations in this book. It goes with Chapter Thirteen.

Thank you for reading our book,
Graham, Marjorie and Will

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